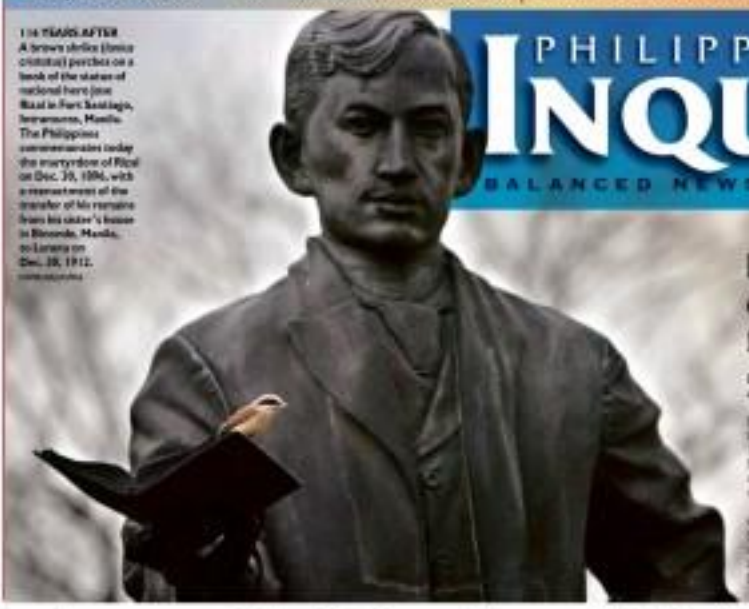
Sunday, December 30, 2012 ★★ 9 sections / Vol. 28 / No. 22 P20 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4467 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS



116 YEARS AFTER A brown shrike (lanius cristatus) perches on a head of the statue of national hero Jose Rizal in Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. The Philippines commemorates today the martyrdom of Rizal on Dec. 30, 1896, with a reenactment of the transfer of his remains from his sister's house in Binondo, Manila, to Luneta on Dec. 30, 1912.

P-Noy to lead restaging of transfer of Rizal's bones from Binondo to Luneta

By Michael Lim Ubac and Erika Sauler

PRESIDENT Aquino leads the nation in commemorating the 116th anniversary of June 19 Rizal's martyrdom in ceremonies at Luneta Park this morning.

The ceremonies include a symbolic reenactment of a piece of bone from Rizal's spinal column, which was shattered by a bullet during his execution on Dec. 30, 1896.

Mr. Aquino will lead the centennial commemoration of the reenactment of the transfer of Rizal's remains from the house of the national hero's sister, Narcisa, in Binondo, Manila, to his monument at Luneta Park.

"We encourage everybody to participate and feel the historical movement of laying Rizal to his final resting place," said Regina Ramona R. Aquinos commander of the Order of

P-NOY A4

Top CEOs bullish on PH

Hero's last Christmas in 1896 far from merry

By Ambeth R. Ocampo
Columnist

OF THE MANY references to Christmas in the five-volume compilation of Jose Rizal's correspondence, the farewell but surly letter dated Dec. 25, 1896, stands out.

From his prison cell in Fort Santiago, Rizal addressed his defense counsel, Luis Taviel de Andrade, with these words:

"I have been waiting for you this morning to speak with you about an important matter, but undoubtedly your pursuits did not permit you to come. If you have time to spare, I should like to speak with you before I appear before the council. I would appreciate it very much, this afternoon, this evening, or [tomorrow] morning.

"Wishing you Merry Christmas, I

HERO'S A8

BEFORE ... AND AFTER Aliwagwag Falls in Cateel, Davao Oriental, beneath a thick canopy of virgin forest has been described as one of the most beautiful falls in Mindanao. It boasts of a series of 84 falls like a lush trail of stairway to heaven. That was before ... This is how it looks now after Typhoon "Pablo" battered the province with 208 kph winds early this month. The photo below was taken on Dec. 24 while the photo above was taken on April 1 this year.

Investment upgrade, faster growth expected

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao
Business Section

THE AQUINO government has described 2012 as one of the best years ever for the Philippines with economic growth expected to surpass the targeted 5 to 6 percent and the stock market ending the year on a 38th record high, making it the second best performing market in Asia behind Thailand.

But 2013 promises to be even better, according to the CEOs of some of the country's largest corporations who are already looking forward to even faster economic growth and the Philippines finally getting investment-grade status, which is expected to pave the way for more foreign investments to pour into the country.

"This year's good economic fundamentals—benign inflation, high foreign exchange reserves and low interest rates—provide a good springboard for a rosy 2013 outlook. Hopefully this translates into another credit rating improvement that would put the country to investment grade, some-

TOP CEOS A13

Anti-RH groups not giving up, will go to SC

By Philip C. Tubeza, Michael Lim Ubac and Christian V. Esguerra

GROUPS opposed to the reproductive health measure are not giving up even after President Aquino quietly signed it into law four days before Christmas.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez welcomed the President's decision not to make a "big feat" of the signing, but said questioning Republic Act No. 10354 in the Supreme Court would be a logical next move.

"It's always an option," he

ANTI-RH A13

Cardinal Tagle urges faithful to live as peacemakers / A10

Malacañang finds 1948 law banning gambling on Rizal Day

By Michael Lim Ubac

ATTENTION gamblers: Today, Rizal Day, is not only a nonworking holiday but also a gambling holiday.

Malacañang has found an old, little-known law that prohibits gambling on Dec. 30, Rizal Day.

Republic Act No. 229 specifically prohibits cockfighting, horse racing and jai

MALACAÑANG A4

Rizal honored with many names but none like the 'Tagalog Christ'

By Dr. Pablo S. Tiñana III
Order of the Knights of Rizal and Philippine Historical Association

TODAY, Dec. 30, is the 116th anniversary of the martyrdom of Dr. Jose Rizal. It is also the centennial of the transfer of the remains of the national hero from Binondo to his monument in Luneta, now called Rizal Park. (See story on this page.)

Rizal was executed in Bagumbayan at exactly 7:03 in the morning of Dec. 30, 1896. An hour later, a wagon from San Juan de Dios Hospital carried the corpse to the Paco Cemetery where it was secretly buried in an unmarked grave.

In the afternoon of the same day, Narcisa, a favorite sister and confidante of Rizal, found her brother's grave after a long search. She asked the guards to allow a marble slab to mark the site. Inscribed on the marker were the letters "MIO," Rizal's initials reversed

RIZAL A9

WHAT'S INSIDE

TALK • **Holiday** feast without ill side effects **ENTERTAINMENT** • **Who's** afraid of Manila film fest top grosser? • Controversial celeb's false generosity bared • Snapshots of celebrity families in party mode **LIFESTYLE** • **Why** the Catholic Church should apologize to Rizal's mother **NEWS** • **It** may be rainy New Year's Day • Firecracker injuries hit 164 • Cut cleanly, DAR employees urge their chief • Bus trips fully booked till Jan. 3 • 100 Malabon families lose homes in fire

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Tagaytay Cavite, Cordillera Administrative Region and the provinces in Central and Eastern Luzon, Eastern Visayas, and most areas in Mindanao will be cool to cold. Slight to moderate seas will be the mainly calm in the rest of the country. Read more...

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Thunderstorms Possible	Davao	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Thunderstorms Possible	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Legaspi	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Kalibo	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Butuan	Partly Cloudy

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Second FRONTPAGE

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6/42

1 Dec	28	31
9 Dec	27	21
16 Dec	9	3

SUERTRESS

1 Dec	6	7
9 Dec	1	9
16 Dec	8	3

SIX DIGIT (Pesos only)

3	0	4	3	7	9

6/49 LUZ MIS MIN

4	13	14	16	28	33

P13,428,142.40

6/55 GRANDLOTTO

9	31	36	46	48	52	

P74,566,522.80

LOTTO: Text 894 LOTTO, send to 4441. PCSO offices

This time it's PH vs Taiwan

By Tarra Quismundo

ANOTHER conflict is brewing in the West Philippine Sea, this time between the Philippines and Taiwan over oil and gas exploration around Ligao Island, the largest islet in the Spratlys group.

The Philippine government yesterday asserted its sovereign right to "explore and exploit" resources in the country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the West Philippine Sea. Gusthy Chiang hurt as Taiwan announced plans to begin looking for oil and gas in disputed areas of the Spratlys islands chain.

Assistant Secretary Raul Hernandez, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) spokesperson, said yesterday that only the Philippines could explore in those parts of the Spratlys that lie within the country's 200-nautical mile continental shelf.

Reports from Taiwan said island nation's Bureau of Mines said more out-of-supplier CPC Corp. were keen on making exploration for oil and gas to waters around Ligao Island, the largest Spratlys island that the Taiwanese call Taiping.

China, Vietnam and the Philippines have claims to Ligao Island.

The Philippines earlier this year offered oil exploration contracts in its claimed part of the Spratlys, a move that drew criticism from counterclaimants, especially China.

Without directly criticizing Taiwan for the move, Hernandez said foreign companies that sign the Philippines' EEZ must be signed off by Manila to comply with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos).

"The Philippines has exclusive sovereign rights to explore and exploit all types of resources in its continental shelf within the 200-nautical-miles measured from the baselines in the western coast of the Philippine archipelago," Hernandez said.

"No country can conduct oil exploration in the (Philippine) continental shelf in the West Philippine Sea without the permission of the government, as provided for under Unclos," he said.

Reason to be dependent on oil imports, Taiwan is increasing the oil exploration to build up its oil resources, the reports said.

Taiwan's announcement came amid renewed tensions between China and the Philippines over exports of Chinese dope patrolling in the West Philippine Sea and plans to fortify Sanshu City, an administrative domain established to govern all of the Spratlys.

The Philippines called both developments violations of international law and disrespectful of the Philippines' sovereign right to its EEZ.

China this week deployed an unarmed ship to the disputed waters, the first time for a Chinese vessel to patrol beyond its coastal waters. The patrol started ahead of the implementation of a new policing law allowing Hainan province's authorities to board and inspect foreign ships that will pass by the South China Sea, a critical international trading route.

Firecrackers, stray bullet injure 165

By Philip C. Tubeza

THREE days before the New Year, the number of injured ahead of the revelry rose to 165 preventing the Department of Health (DOH) said.

The DOH, which has appealed to the public not to use firecrackers, said 164 were injured by fireworks as of 6 a.m. yesterday while one person was hit by a stray bullet.

"This [total of 165] is four percent lower than the numbers this year-average and 22 cases (16 percent) lower than in the same period last year," the DOH said.

Most cases occurred in the National Capital Region (82 cases), followed by Western Visayas (14), and Western Mindanao and Calabarzon with nine cases each, it said.

So far, there were no reported deaths or cases of firecracker injuries, the DOH said.

Most of those injured were male (139) while the victims' ages ranged from nine months to 61 years. Their median age was 10.

"Sixty-five (40 percent) cases were children under 10 years old. The most affected age group was the 6-10 (49 or 42 percent)," the DOH said.

"[The] majority (120 or 82 percent) sustained blast injuries not requiring amputation, 27 (16 percent) had eye injuries and five (3 percent) suffered blast injuries requiring amputation, the DOH said.

It added that 78 percent or 128 cases "involved illegal or dangerous firecrackers" with 37 injuries caused by the piccolo firecrackers.

According to Sec. Gregorio Honasan, the level of explosiveness that local firecrackers pack, such as the Goodbye Philippines or Super Lolo, could rival military projectiles.

"What's glaring here is the level of our firecrackers. They're in the category already of high explosives. The level of destruction and damage is amazing," Honasan told the business.

"If we were to be imaginative, if we can push this as a component of our self-defense program, maybe we can develop—even primitive—surface-to-surface missiles and artillery missiles with the kind of explosives we are using here," said Honasan, an adviser for a local weapons industry.

Honasan nonetheless expressed concern over the number of firecracker-related injuries in the days leading up to the New Year.

Honasan, a former Army colonel and chief of the Senate committee on public order and dangerous drugs, took responsibility for the lack of attention two bills on stiffer firecracker control received from his panel since 2010.

"My current sentiment ignores the sanctions related to injuries. We'll accept full responsibility," he said.

Two firecracker control bills are pending in Honasan's committee. With a report from Norman Bordadora

Go for round local fruits, advises DA

By Riza T. Olchondra

ANTICIPATING the rush to shop for round-shaped fruits (still-broadly served in New Year traditions), Get Department of Agriculture (DA) has urged consumers to buy locally-available fruits to support domestic farmers and the country's food sufficiency program.

These are locally grown grapes from Batangas, Pilipinas, Cavite and other provinces, as well as those fruits from Central Luzon and Bukidnon, said Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala.

DA local shoppers could also consider other fruits such as suha (pomelo), guava, orange (sweet apple), Chinese plum, carambola, santol, mandarin, calamansi (Philippine orange), lanzones, chico, avocado, chico, averrhoa (local rhombus), mangosteen, jackfruit (native), soursop, papaya, bukid (native mango), pineapple (pomegranate), lipote/lipote-bog (round black plum), calamay (small and round black plum), sampinit (Philippine strawberry) and jambo (rose-apple).

For a more unconventional table, one could serve round varieties of lengka (jackfruit), pineapple, mango, mangosteen, durian, balimbing (star fruit) and dragonfruit, Alcala said.

"Buying imported fruits is OK. But isn't it better to celebrate and support local farmers at the same time?" he said.

Aside from raising the incomes of fruit farmers, buying local fruits is also seen to help these farmers who grow fruits as supplement their income from other crops or other forms of food production such as livestock raising and fish farming. This helps sustain the country's program to boost overall food production, Alcala said.

The Philippines is aiming to achieve sufficiency in food staples after 2013. The country is currently 97- to 98-percent self-sufficient in palay. As for corn, production now reaches the requirements of the livestock sector, according to the agriculture department.

"High-value crops are also getting more attention, including the organic growing of vegetables and fruits," Alcala said.

Meanwhile, Alcala gave assurances that there is enough supply of food in the country despite the recent typhoons, and that the country's agriculture and fishery sectors would register positive growth.

Tropical Storm "Quinta" caused relatively "minimal" damage to agriculture but benefited some areas where growing crops need rainwater, he said earlier said.

Crop damage from Quinta was placed at P110.4 million, according to data from the Department of Agriculture.

Alcala said the damage was comparatively small and yet rains from the tropical storm saved some areas from drought.

TENT CITY Philippine Red Cross Chair Richard Gordon and Secretary-General Gwendolyn Pang oversee the setting up of 180 tents in New Bataan, Compostela Valley, to temporarily house families rendered homeless by Typhoon "Pablo" two weeks ago.

Thousands still in evac centers

By Marlon Ramos

THE FLOODWATERS brought by Tropical Storm "Quinta," which trampled over 20 towns in Western Visayas, have subsided, but close to 14,000 families still remain in evacuation centers, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said yesterday.

Undersecretary Benito Ramos, NDRRMC executive director, said various government agencies led by the Department of Social Work and Development (DSWD) were focusing on providing relief items to people displaced by the floods.

The official NDRRMC toll has 12 people dead, one injured and two others missing in 44 municipalities engaged by the storm.

Regional tallies are up to 17. Ramos explained that this may be because the NDRRMC "waits for the body to be recovered before declaring missing persons as dead."

He said residents who fled to safer ground during Quinta's onslaught had started returning to their homes.

The NDRRMC said 13,861 families composed of 72,897 individuals were still in 141 evacuation centers.

It said 43,611 families composed of 201,888 individuals in 433 barangays in five regions were affected by the 17th storm to hit the country this year.

Relief operations also continued for victims of the previous Typhoon "Pablo."

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) yesterday distributed Christmas gifts to 3,000 families affected by Pablo in Compostela Valley.

PRC Chair Richard Gordon led Red Cross officials in distributing Christmas packs worth P1,000 each to residents of New Bataan and Monkayo towns.

Donations from abroad continued to pour in with private groups from Europe and Japan joining the latest batch of international donors.

Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman thanked Dole Korea and Yoplait Corp. Japan in partnership with Brandbox-Asia, a director of Dole Philippines Inc., and Kaibah Development Foundation Inc., a nongovernment organization accredited by the DSWD, for raising P3.2 million worth of relief goods for the typhoon victims.

With reports from Cynthia Balana, Philip Tubeza, Christine Avendaño and Pierre Quismundo

Cut cleanly, DAR employees tell secretary

By DJ Yap

THE EMPLOYEES' union of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has issued its own Christmas message to Agrarian Reform Secretary Virgilio de los Reyes to which it told him to "rest cleanly" and sleep deeply.

In response to De los Reyes' recent open letter to the DAR community, the DAR Employees Association (Darea) and the present group Task Force Mapalad (TFM) feared De los Reyes' Christmas and the department needed a new secretary "who will motivate, inspire and lead the DAR employees."

Darea said the DAR community would hold President Aquino to his promise of finishing the land distribution aspect of the agrarian reform program by the end of his term, but "that would require a different secretary."

"He should not be an arrogant secretary who has the habit of badmouthing the employees because he is intellectually superior. He should be a secretary who cares for the welfare of his employees who are in the forefront of their productive years," the group said in the letter.

Darea, which represents some 11,000 rank and file DAR employees, said it sees no merely reason to sing the line that the DAR under De los Reyes' watch was very slow to act.

"We appreciate the efforts of our fellow employees in spite of you," it told De los Reyes.

"We are not 'parroting' but stating the fact that based on available records, year more than two years of DAR have been a disaster not only for the farmers but for the employees as well," the Darea members said.

The group also accused the secretary of bulging facts.

2012 was a good year

In his letter, De los Reyes said he considered 2012 a good year for the department and that it was able to accomplish much more than his critics had given it credit for.

He noted that the department had issued emancipation patents for 13,327 landholdings covering 92,229 hectares as of November 30 said the public did not know that the issuance of the titles, following a long and tedious process, meant that the DAR's work was basically finished.

"Very few among the agrarian reform advocates, much less the general public, know that with the issuance of the titles, the DAR's work is essentially done," he had said.

But Darea said De los Reyes was confusing truthful.

"Again you lied when you wrote that partial December 2012 reports showed that MOAs had been issued 128 irreparable holdings totalling 93,229 hectares because it was Gloria Pro, the Land Bank of the Philippines president herself, who clarified that as of the cutoff date of Oct. 31, there titles that were processed totaled only 90 covering 3,554 hectares," Darea said.

Asked to comment, De los Reyes, who said he had not received a copy of the letter, yesterday reiterated his position that he would step down only if told to so by President Aquino.

He denied being arrogant or asserting his "intellectual superiority" over the employees, although he admitted "getting angry" at employees who refused to accept changes to the old systems at the DAR.

"What we're trying to do is change the old systems because the old systems no longer work," he said.

He cited as an example the department's "one-DAR" concept, which involved requiring employees to provinces with little land left to distribute to help in provinces where the work volume was huge.

"What Darea meant is to remain the old system, which is to keep it within the provinces, but that system no longer works," De los Reyes said.

He also said he was not lying when the winner in his open letter to the DAR community that the department had issued 300% for 13,307 landholdings covering 92,229 hectares as of November.

He said he never claimed the MOAs were only issued for 2012 but that they also covered lands since the beginning of his term.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday – December 30, 2012
Feast of the Holy Family

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

I will offer him

Hannah became pregnant. She gave birth to a son and called him Samuel because she said: "I have asked Yahweh to give him to me."

Once more Elkanah went to the temple with his family to offer his yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow to Yahweh. Hannah would not go along but she said to her husband, "I will bring the child then: as soon as he is weaned. He shall be presented to Yahweh and stay there forever."

When the child was weaned, Hannah took him with her along with a three-year-old bull, a measure of flour and a flask of wine, and she brought him to Yahweh's house at Shiloh. The child was still young.

After they had slain the bull, they brought the child to Eli. Hannah explained: "Oh, my lord, I am the woman who once stood beside you praying to Yahweh. I asked for this child and Yahweh granted me the favor I begged of him. Now I thank Yahweh as asking for this child: in turn as for favor, he belongs to Yahweh."

And they worshipped Yahweh there.

Psalm Responsory: 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24

Gaudete Psalm

See what kingship love the Father has for us: We are called children of God, and we really are. This is why the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

Beloved, we are God's children, and what we shall be has not yet been shown. We relate to appear as his glory we know that we shall be like him, for then we shall see him as he is.

When our weaknesses close our conscience us, dear friends, we may have complete confidence before God. Then whatever we ask we shall receive, since we keep his commands and do what pleases him.

His commandment is that we believe in the Name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another, as he has commanded us.

Whoever keeps his commandments remains in God and God in him. It is by the Spirit God has given us that we know he lives in us.

Gospel: John 2:41-51

I must be in my Father's house

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover, as was customary. And when Jesus was 12 years old, he went up with them according to the custom for the feast. After the festival was over, they returned, but the boy Jesus remained in Jerusalem and his parents did not notice it.

They thought he was in the company and after walking the whole day they looked for him among their relatives and friends. As they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem searching for him, and on the third day they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. And all the people were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

His parents were surprised when they saw him and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I were very worried while searching for you." Then he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Do you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand the answer.

Jesus went down with them, returning to Nazareth, and he continued to be subject to them. As for his mother, she kept all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and age, and in favor and human favor.

Reflection

Read

• Luke 2:41-52: On the occasion of a thousand pilgrimage to Jerusalem, Jesus—without his parents' knowledge—remains behind in the temple.

Reflect

• And short of the beginning of the account of his public life, Jesus is to be found in prayer. At the conclusion of his life on earth, the ascension, Jesus takes leave of his disciples by blessing them—in prayer. Jesus begins and ends his ministry on a note of prayer.

Pray

• Following in your footsteps, O Christ, may prayer be an integral part of my life and work—not mere hopes, so much concluded without prayer.

Act

• Enhance your prayer life by reading on the subject.

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P-Noy to lead restaging rites

From page A1

the Knights of Rizal, which sponsored the program together with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP).

"This is the 100th year of the transfer and decent burial of Rizal and it is significant for all Filipinos to know his sacrifice in bringing liberation to the Filipino people," Romero said.

The Knights of Rizal and the NHCP will reenact the funeral march from Nozaleda house in San Fernando Street, corner Juan Luna Street in Binondo to Luneta Park.

Taking the place of Rizal's remains in the canon of lead beside his spine, which will be placed in a replica of the ivory urn that contained the hero's bones and was buried in a chamber in the base of his monument in 1912 during a commemorative rites held by the Knights of Rizal and the Masonic Lodge of the Philippines.

The urn will be carried in a motorized caisson and escorted by the Knights of Rizal wearing a copy of their 1912 uniform and marching to the music played at the time.

Around 7,000 students, soldiers, policemen, government employees and Rizal's descendants have committed to join the procession. They will rendezvous on Luneta at 6 a.m. to 5 a.m. from three assembly points: Plaza Lorenzo Ruiz in Binondo, Fort Santiago in Intramuros and the Manila Hotel.

According to Hidalgo-Gatmaitan, today's celebrations include a multisensory wreath-laying and flag-raising ceremonies at all Rizal shrines in the country.

The focal point of the celebrations is Luneta Park, where President Aquino will host the nationwide flag ceremony at the Independence flag pole in front of Rizal's monument.

The public is invited to join the Rizal procession. Those who wish to participate are requested to wear white "to symbolize the purity of Rizal," according to the Knights of Rizal.

100 YEARS AGO Honor guards stand in attention in this Dec. 28, 1912 photo before the remains of national hero Jose Rizal were transferred to Luneta. PHOTO FROM THE FACEBOOK PAGE OF KNIGHTS OF RIZAL

Secret grave

Rizal's body was dumped in an unmarked grave in the old Paco Cemetery after his execution. The tough-looking Spanish prosecutor, his hated place was found and matched with a marble slab, on which his initials were inscribed in reverse, "RPC," to throw off the Spanish authorities who might remove his body to prevent public veneration.

Exhumed in 1898, Rizal's remains were kept by his family in the Binondo house until Dec. 30, 1912, when they were interred in the shrine for the hero of the monument that now stands to honor his memory incorporately.

In an old photo obtained by the Knights of Rizal, Doña Teodora was seen cradling the urn containing her son's bones. She was said to have shown his remains in emotion while reciting his poem "Mi Último Adios."

Historian and foreigners would cry over though they didn't understand Spanish because of the evident anguish of a mother who lost a son.

Doña Teodora died before her son's remains could be given a proper burial in 1913.

Asuncion Lopez Bantug, grand-daughter of Narcisa, provides the most complete details of the finding of Rizal's grave after his execution and the exhumation of his body two years later in her biography "Lolo Jose: An Intimate Portrait of Rizal" (Manila: Intramuros Administration, 1992).

Finding the grave

Burning resource Harrison's search of connection to find Rizal's grave, leading to Rizal is in the schoolbus graveyards.

"But my Lola Ina refused to give up," Burning writes. "She continued her search of the graveyards—and was finally rewarded. At the Paco Cemetery the old sky graveyard no longer in use, she noticed Mayor Manuel Lawton and some army officers inspecting a grave. When they left, Lola Ina hurried to the site. It was a freshly dug grave and could only be that of her brother. She went to the sexton and persuaded him to stand at the grave with the small marble slab she carried. The marble slab, designed by family friend Dominio Ongkingco, was inscribed with: Gore Jones, R.I.P.—my Lola Ina's initials in reverse. The family feared that a team exploit treasure might prompt the authorities to remove the body and hide it elsewhere, to prevent any public veneration of the final grave. It is said that a guard was placed at the Paco Cemetery to discourage snoopers.

"Five years later, in the turmoil that followed the American occupation of Manila, his family seized the chance to recover my Lola Jose's body unburdened by Church or State. Spain had fallen to the Philippines, American troops took care in Manila on Aug. 13, 1898. Four days later, on Aug. 17, my Lola Ina, accompanied by her daughter Angelica, sculptor Fernando Teodoro de Jesus, Higino Francisco and Gustavo Ongkingco, went to the Paco Cemetery and had the grave dug up." (pp. 102, 104)

Rizal's body was found to have been treated without conflict. The family took the remains to Narcisa's house and placed them in an ivory urn copied by Dr. Jesus.

That was the urn loaded in the Rizal Monument at Luneta in 1912, an event the nation commemorates today on its 100th anniversary.

WARNING A public service announcement on Rizal Day released by Malacañang that prohibits cockfighting, horse racing and jai-alai every Dec. 30 based on Republic Act No. 229, signed by President Elpidio Quirino in 1948

IN THE KNOW

DESCRIBED as a history addict by his Spanish biographer, Dr. Jose Rizal actually spent the happiest while he was living in exile in Dapitan in 1892.

Rizal bought a third of 1½ prosperous hectares of land, namely owning it with Dapitan Governors Ricardo Carnicero and Prudencio Iberbe, a Spanish merchant in Dapitan.

The spikes for the second price of P20,000 in the government-run Manila Lottery Rizal's share amounted to at least P6,000.

Rizal invested a huge part of his winnings in properties in Talisay, Dapitan, where he engaged in the abaca hemp, coco and taco school. He also opened a store there.

After Rizal's execution in 1896, the Spanish government confiscated his Talisay properties and returned them to a caretaker.

In 1913, the Talisay estate was converted into a park declared to be the property of Rizal. A decree converted the park into Rizal Shrine. Another decree classified it as a national shrine. Inquirer Research

Sources: Inquirer Archives; depdevmip.gov.ph; PCSO

GE Appliances

13% more energy efficient? Cool.

GE imagination at work

Malacañang finds old law banning gambling

From page A1

...ide on Rizal Day

RA 229 was signed on June 6, 1936, by President Elpidio Quirino, the second President of the Third Philippine Republic (post-Neorealist).

The Presidential Commission for Development and Strategic Planning (PCDSP) on Thursday posted a copy of the archaic law and uploaded the text to the online Official Gazette (pcdspo.gov.ph). It also posted a link on its Twitter account ahead of today's Rizal Day rites.

The PCDSP is headed by Secretary Ricky Carandang, with undersecretary Manuel "Manolo" Quezon III.

Still valid

In separate interviews yesterday, presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda and deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte confirmed that the law is still valid.

"Yes, it is still in effect. We confirmed with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines," Lacierda said in a text message. And although today is a holiday, penalties still apply.

Cockfighting, horse racing and jai-alai aficionados caught betting on those games will be fined P200 or imprisoned for six months or both.

If the offenders are mayor and Charbonel City mayors, they will be suspended for six months in addition to the fine.

The law does not explain why it singles out mayors. But another does it say that higher officials are exempt.

Flags at half-staff

RA 229 also orders the flying of the national flag at half-staff in all public buildings and at half-mast on seagoing vessels on Rizal Day.

Donald President Aquino, who heads today's Rizal Day rites at Luneta Park, raise the flag to just halfway up the pole in front of the Rizal Monument?

That is interesting, because last year, the President, assisted by Cabinet officials, said the flag all the way to the top. And the flag flies at half-staff anywhere in the country.

The law also mandates the creation of a committee to take charge of the proper celebration of Rizal Day in every municipality and chartered city in the country.

Lotto excluded

Interviewed by Pastor Joy Garcia, Valte explained that the "legal fine text" of games of chance are prohibited on Rizal Day.

"Seemingly, there are a lot of people [who] did not know about that particular law," she said.

Valte said the PCSO's had produced an "infographic" of RA 229 to remind the public about the law, "especially now that you have an online which is really convenient about giving people's sense of history and making it very hip and very current."

Asked whether the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office's lotto games would be drawn today, Valte said the lotto, a legal game of chance, did not exist at the time of the law's enactment.

That explains why lotto-betting stations sold tickets yesterday for today's games.

Free MRT, LRT rides

And, as in previous years, the government will not collect fares from commuters on the Metro Rail Transit and Light Rail Transit.

RIZALISTAS Followers of Jose P. Rizal sing praises to the national hero at Rizal Shrine in Aroyan, Pampanga.

DOLE issues pay guide

By Tina G. Santos

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has issued the rules on the payment of wages for the regular and special holidays next year.

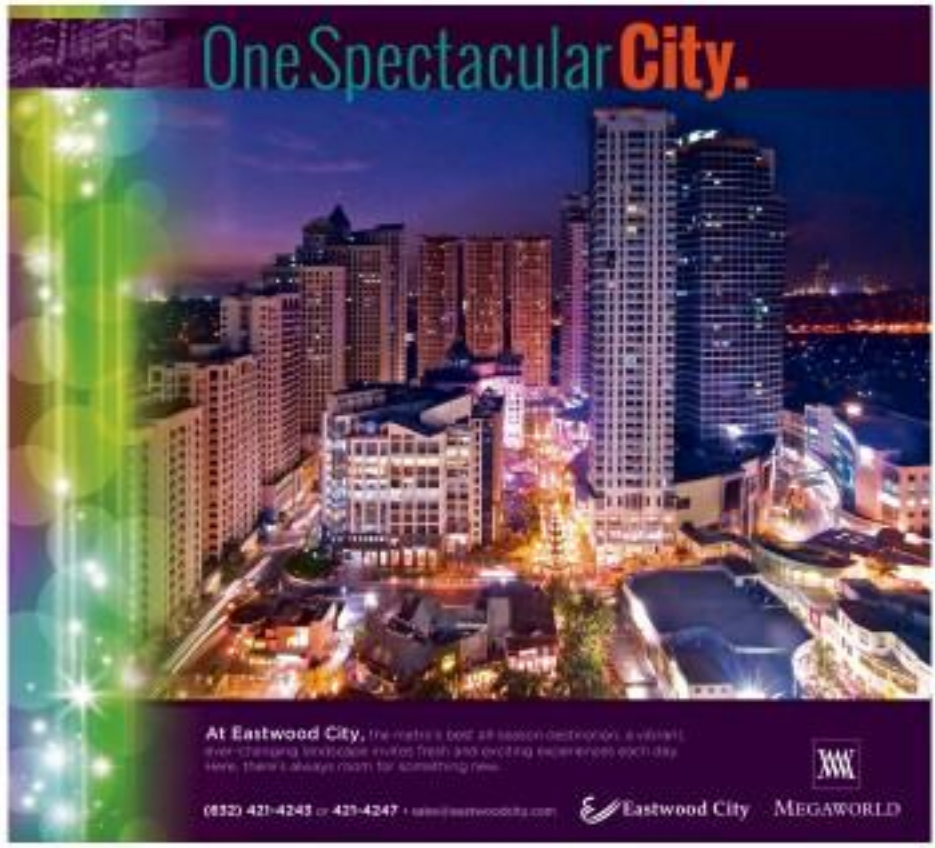
For the regular holidays on Jan. 1 (New Year's Day), March 28 (Maundy Thursday), March 29 (Good Friday), April 9 (Araw ng Kagitingan), May 1 (Labor Day), June 12 (Independence Day), Aug. 26 (National Heroes Day), Nov. 30 (Bonifacio Day), Dec. 25 (Christmas Day), Dec. 30 (Rizal Day), and Eid'l Fitr and Eid'l Adha, the DOLE in Labor Advisory No. 6 issued the following rules pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 469.

If an employee reports for work on a regular holiday, he shall be entitled to 200 percent of his regular salary for that day for the first eight hours, and an additional 30 percent of his hourly rate for work in excess of eight hours, Baldoz said.

If the day falls on an employee's rest day and he goes to work, he is entitled to an additional 30 percent of his daily rate or 200 percent. If he work in excess of eight hours on those days, he should get an additional 30 percent of his hourly rate.

"But if an employee does not render work on a regular holiday, he shall be entitled to 100 percent of his salary for that day," Baldoz said.

On the other hand, she said that for the special non-working holidays — March 30 (Black Saturday), Aug. 21 (Ninoy Aquino Day), Nov. 1 (All Saints Day), Nov. 2 (All Souls Day), Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve) and Dec. 31 (New Year's Eve)—the principle of "no work, no pay" would apply, "unless there is a favorable company policy, practice or collective bargaining agreement (CBA) granting payment on a special day.



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MAKE IT HAPPEN MAKE IT MAKATI

It may be cold, rainy on New Year's Day, says Pagasa

THE FIRST day of 2013 will be cloudy with a chance of showers over most parts of the country according to a special outlook for the New Year by the weather bureau. No new storm appears to be in sight.

As in past weeks, the northeast monsoon, known locally as "hanging amihan," will remain the prevalent weather system affecting most of the country, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said.

"The weather system that will affect most parts of the country are the northeast monsoon associated with strong to gale force winds and the tail-end of a cold front that will prevail in the next five days," according to the advisory prepared by Pagasa administrator Nathaniel Servando.

The Cagayan Valley as well as Aurora province and the Cordillera Administrative Region, will experience fair weather on Sunday but light rains are expected on New Year's Day up to the next day, Pagasa said.

"Likewise, southern Luzon, eastern Visayas and eastern Mindanao will have occasional rains due to the southward migration of the tail-end of a cold front on Monday up to Tuesday," it said.

The rains will be some more frequent over Bicolano, Dinagat and Leyte provinces, and may trigger flash floods and landslides on Wednesday, the weather bureau added.

The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy weather with passing light rains, it said.

The advisory made no mention of any approaching weather disturbance, and forecasters said they did not expect another tropical cyclone in 2012 after last week's Tropical Storm "Quinta," which wreaked moderate damage in the Visayas.

Going out to sea in northern and Central Luzon (waters) didn't stop fun today for fishing boats and other vessels due to big waves generated by the monsoon surge, Pagasa said. (LJ Ilgo

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RIZAL'S GREAT-GRANDNIECES. Andrea and Sonya Fasserman, great-grandnieces of Jose Rizal, look at the bronze relic of Dapitan's famous sycamore inside the Rizal Shrine at Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila.

PRIDE OF THE PHILIPPINES. The Philippine national colors flutter in the wind on the eve of the celebration of Rizal's martyrdom at Rizal Park in Manila.

Rizal honored with many names but none like the 'Tagalog Christ'

From page A1

to deflect attention.

On Aug. 17, 1896, four days after the Americans took control of Manila following a mock battle with the Spaniards, Rizal's remains were exhumed and taken to Narvitas's home. The remains were cleaned and placed in an urn which stayed with the Rizal family in Binondo until 1912.

On Dec. 29, 1912, the unclaiming Rizal's remains was taken to the Ayuntamiento de Manila for a one-day expression of public support. With living international ceremonies, the remains were finally laid to rest, on Dec. 30, 1912, in the base of the rising monument to the national hero at the Luneta. That monument was completed and inaugurated exactly a year later.

Three events have opened the floodgates of mystique and honors that, in this day, continue to explain Rizal's contribution to Philippine history. Rizal has been called, among other expressions of admiration, la conciencia viva Filipina (the living conscience of the Filipinos), un caballero sin tacha (a gentleman without blemish), the Golpon-Founder of the Philippines, Ama ng Bansang Pilipino (Father of the Filipino Nation), el fundador mas importante en cada de su pueblo, un todo tanó Malaya (the most important man not only of his country but of the entire Malay race), un figurero se universal (an immortal figure), San Jose Rizal, and el Semidiós de Asperto (a demi-god of Dapitan).

The Tagalog Christ

Some, however, compares to glory and relate many expressions that the application the Christ-like martyr or the "Tagalog Christ."

It was Miguel de Unamuno, Spanish philosopher and writer, who elaborated on Rizal's execution as Spain's degree and rules, in 1907, was the first to call Rizal the Tagalog Christ.

The comparison between the lives of Jesus the Christ and Rizal the christian hero has been well delineated by Austin Coates, a Rizal biographer. He said: "(T)he parallel between the two lives is incompatible in the impressions each conveys of a man sure in his own vocation, a vocation for which he was aware that everything must be sacrificed, as also he was aware that it might be required of him that he be killed as part of that purpose."

For both Jesus and Rizal, life on earth was a summon and submission to a call from the beginning, both knew or had intimations of a mission they had to fulfill, the redemption of mankind from sin in the case of Jesus and the redemption of the people from oppression in the case of Rizal.

Both taught love as the moral foundation of the redemptive process. "Love one another as I have loved you," Jesus told His disciples at their wondrous, only victim can redeem," Rizal declared. And both, in life and in death, unselfish love that was selfless and unconditional.

Nothing could deflect both from the purpose and fulfillment of their mission. When Joseph and Mary lost the 12-year-old Jesus in Jerusalem after the Passover feast, they found Him in the temple conversing with the elders. In Rizal's case, his parents and sisters greatly worried, Jesus calmly said that they should have known that He was about "(His) father's business."

Similarly the teenager Rizal, acting against his wishes because he loved the beautiful Dapitan Intighat of Lipa, pulled himself away from romantic passion in obedience to a voice heard from within to follow inward the path of sacrifice and mission.

Final act

Both Jesus and Rizal were aware that death would be the ultimate demand and final act of their redemptive purpose. One day as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, He said to his disciples: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and hand Him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified, and He will be raised on the third day." During His agony in the garden of Gethsemane, He prayed that the sacrificial cup pass from Him "yet not as I will but as You will."

On June 20, 1892, in Hong Kong, prior to his second return to the Philippines, Rizal wrote some letters, his friend Antonio Pobleta. In them, he confided that his decision to go back opposed him to certain death but, having given it much thought, he had in obey his conscience in order to free many from unjust oppression. And on Oct. 9, 1896, he was again returning to the Philippines after being placed under arrest while on his way to serve as volunteer doctor for the Spanish Army fighting Cubans who in Cuban Rizal wrote in his diary: "May God's will always be done ... Oh Lord, Thou art my hope, my consolation! Thy will be done and I am only too ready to obey it." They were all virtual preparations for death without holding for him to be fulfilled and were realized to fulfill.

Other parallels

There were also parallels between Jesus and Rizal in other aspects of their lives. Jesus was the custom of the Jews, the infant Jesus was brought to the temple to be consecrated to the Lord. The divine Saviour said, a little later, the ardent Jesus, upon seeing the infant Rizal, Catholic Spain spoke about His redemptive mission. When Rizal was brought to the church for his baptism, the Filipino priest noticed the child's unusual head and told his mother to be careful as the boy would someday be a great man.

Both Jesus and Rizal were innocent victims, their guilt unproved against them, and their deaths instigated by men of the cloth. It was the chief priests, led by Caiaphas, who conspired to get Jesus nailed to the cross. And it was the Spanish friars who conspired to get Rizal shot to Bagumbayan. The conspirators to put Jesus and Rizal to death used the same general predisposition of the conspirators who wanted to get the heads of their victims regardless of proof of guilt or innocence.

'Consummatum est'

Other parallels between the two lives were evident in the immediate period before their deaths. On Nov. 3, 1896, Rizal, after his third return to the Philippines, was transferred to Fort Santiago. There he drew a scene of the Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane with the following inscription. "This is but the first station." He had prayed that he would preserve the tranquility of his soul. And when he finally fell in Bagumbayan, that fateful morning of Dec. 30, 1896, his pallor was abnormal, his countenance serene, and his last cry, as was that of Jesus', was "Consummatum est!"

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS. Jose Rizal's letter to his nephew Maurice Cruz, now misspelling of "Che'ismas."

Hero's last Christmas in 1896 far from merry

From page A1

intimate. I am, as ever, your attentive, affectionate servant and friend who knows your heart."

Rizal usually displayed grace under pressure, he was to do so shortly before his execution when a military doctor felt his pulse and was surprised to find it normal, though Christmas 1896 was his last merry.

Over the holidays he was treated his tenants and continued to do before the dawn of a new year, the ghosts of Dakilanmen past haunted him as he remembered friends and the names plaudit, and the names possibility of expulsion from the province grateful.

Laughing until dawn

He has merry Christmas was in 1895. As an exile in Dapitan he spent with Josephine Bracken, his students and friends, he recalled: "We celebrated merrily in almost always. We roasted a small pig and hen. We invited our neighbors. There was dancing, and we laughed a great deal until dawn."

There was no lechon, no noche buena feast in Fort Santiago in 1896. But Christmases brought memories of noche buenas at home and abroad, of comfort food, Christmas trees, kinship partners, kissing under the mistletoe and other delights. In a letter to his friend Ferdinand Blumentritt he wrote:

"I will spend Christmas (in) (1886) with (Dr. Maximo Viola), and (seeing Mrs.) who is smiling you Christmas greetings. Many thanks for your kind invitation. I should like to see a Christmas celebration with a Christmas tree, but the families who know me have moved away only for the first time, other because they have no children or their children are already big, at home (in Calamba); the whole family partake of a good soup at midnight, and the children dance; my 4 Relos with an image of the Child Jesus, with animals, etc. This season is the most beautiful and pleasant we have in the Philippines."

In 1888, Rizal wrote Blumentritt:

"Today is Christmas Eve. This is the first time I like to celebrate but. It reminds me of the many happy days not only of my childhood but also of those days. Whether Christ was born or not exactly on this day, I don't know; but chronological accuracy has nothing to do with tonight's events. A grand gesture had been born who preached truth and love; who suffered because of his mission, but on account of his sufferings, the world has become better, if not saved. Only it given me reasons to see how some persons show this same no commit numerous crimes. If he is in heaven, he will certainly protest! Consequently, Merry Christmas! Let us celebrate the anniversary of the birth of a Divine Man!"

Packages from home

While in Europe, Rizal eagerly appreciated packages from home that contained all sorts of things: horses, mile noodles, guava jelly, silk handkerchiefs from Bulacan, a pair of personalized slippers with his name embroidered on them, etc.

Once he declined a Christmas gift of P50 from his sister Narcisa and her husband Pantoc. He wrote his parents: "I'm very grateful to them but no how they can be repaid, because such a token of affection may compel my other brothers-in-law to do the same and I don't want such a thing were to happen. I have just enjoyed Christmas with all your grandchildren whose number I should like to see tripled upon my return so I can put up a schoolful them alone."

For someone with dust he also wrote his eldest sister Saturnina (Saturnina) to explain further:

"I'm very very grateful to Tomas and his. Him for the money they sent me. However, if I am to be believed as I wished to believed now, I beg you not to send me any more money. The source of the money is good but the effect is saddening. My other brothers (in-law) who cannot send me money will be sorry because of their inability to do so. And if they would also send me (money), following the example of the others, I cannot accept it, except with regret, knowing that it has caused a great sacrifice for them. I don't know if they can understand what I'm trying to say or if I say it correctly; please try to explain it.

A lection enough

"Another thing is that for me even a little suffices. Why should they entrench to give me money? If I need money, I'm going to ask for it. Between us brothers it is not necessary to impose one another; we understand one another. Definitely, not all good deeds and generosity possess sweet fruits. Your affection is enough for me."

Rizal's letters document how he celebrated Christmas, what he thought of Christmas customs and the spirit of the season. They remain touching and relevant for in a century after because Christmas for the Filipino is a time for family.

Happy New Year

One of the simplest and most charming letters Rizal wrote was to his nephew Maurice Cruz on the importance of study. In it, he gave a simple lesson in English as follows:

"Para Morir en Manila. Aprende mucho porque el que no sabe recibe escarmientos. Te deseo felices Pascuas y buen Aniversario. Felices Pascuas en Inglés Merry Christmas (sic) Feliz Aniversario Happy New Year. Mirra, you must be a good boy. Your uncle J. Rizal."

It is obvious Rizal deserves concessions too for misspelling Christmas and remaining many of us who forgot, that he was human like you and me. Rizal's humanity reminds us that we don't need a body-hugging costume or a leather in the back or be heroes ourselves.

BI calls on aliens to report

THE BUREAU of Immigration (BI) yesterday called on all foreigners living in the country to show up at its main office or any satellite office beginning Jan. 2 for their annual report of their movements such as deportation.

Immigration Commissioner Ricardo David Jr. reminded foreigners that under the Alien Registration Act of 1950, they are required to report to the BI within the first 60 days of the year.

All immigrant or nonimmigrant visa holders should comply with the rule unless exempted by law. Failure to meet the requirement will result in administrative fines and deportation, warned David.

According to Bernabe Ledesma, BI alien registration division acting chief, foreign nationals can report either to the BI office in Intramuros, Manila, or any field or satellite office nationwide. The list of these offices can be accessed at www.immigration.gov.ph.

Ledesma reminded them to bring their alien certificate of registration ID card and certificate of residence when they pay the annual report fee of P300 and legal research fee of P30.

Jaradyn D. Ly

UAE seeks support for World Expo

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE UNITED Arab Emirates (UAE), where about 500,000 Filipinos live and work, is seeking Philippine support in Dubai's bid to host the World Expo in 2020.

The UAE is "looking forward to visiting the Philippines and getting in touch with the Filipino authorities to seek their support for Dubai's bid to host World Expo 2020," said Hosn al Hashimy, minister of state and managing director of the Higher Committee for Hosting the World Expo 2020 in Dubai.

"And in view of our two countries' excellent bilateral relations, we are looking forward to getting their support," said the UAE official in an e-mail to the Inquirer.

The World Exposition, or World's fair, considered to be the oldest and largest international event, takes place every five years and runs for six months.

With the proposed theme "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future," the UAE bid reflects the vision of the country's leaders and the UAE's position as a regional economic hub.

In a briefing in Abu Dhabi to mark the 41st National Day of the UAE, Al Hashimy said the country was hoping to host the 2020 Expo as this would coincide with the golden jubilee of the emirates federation.

As "unforgettable" World Expo 2020 is what the UAE promises the world, she said.

Dubai, one of the seven dirhikdoms comprising the UAE, is competing against four other cities also bidding to host the 2020 World Expo: Ayutthaya (Thailand), Hatzerodaxy (Russia), Izmir (Turkey) and Sao Paulo (Brazil).

The winner will be announced in November 2013 following a vote by the 163 member nations of the French-based Bureau International des Expositions.

Corrections

IN THE DEC. 24 ISSUE, a caption on Page A6 carried an erroneous sentence. It should have read: "A giant Christmas tree outside the church is kept lighted by a generator set lent by the Mariveles Oriental Electric Cooperative Inc. and operated and maintained by Davao Oriental Electric Cooperative Inc."...not "A giant Christmas tree outside the church is kept lighted by a generator set rent by the board governors of Mati City."

* * *

IN THE DEC. 28 ISSUE, a story on Page A8—"Chinese mercy runs off PI detainees"...carried this erroneous paragraph: "Before going on Christmas break, the Senate passed on second reading a bill that would make the day an unholy day now a honeymoon (not Holy) each year a nonworking holiday." It should have read: a special nonworking holiday...and a nonworking holiday.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for corrections or factual errors or writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Industrial Street, Makati City, fax No. 897-4170, or e-mail address daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

State of calamity declared in 11 Capiz towns

By Felipe Celiac
Inquirer Visayas

ROXAS CITY—A state of calamity has been declared in 11 towns of Capiz that suffered from flooding at the height of Typhoon "Quinta."

The provincial board passed resolutions declaring the state of calamity on Friday, allowing the local governments of the towns to use their calamity funds.

The towns covered by the resolutions are Panay, Roxas City, Sapian, Ivisan, Mambusao, Dumarao, Dao-ang, Tapaz, Cuartero and Dao.

The board resolution said the towns were the worst hit by flooding in Capiz.

Authorities in Capiz reported another typhoon-related death in Dumalag yesterday, that of a 34-year-old man identified as Franklin Saligan, who drowned at the height of the storm.

Typhoon Quinta was the last storm to hit the Philippines this year, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, the state weather bureau.

Cebu taxes spent on 'lechon,' snacks

Record of spending in city offers glimpse of how public funds are used

By Doris C. Bongcac
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—A record of spending by the city mayor is offering a glimpse of how taxes are being used by some government officials on items that have little to do with governance or delivering basic services, like roasted pig.

ANIA

In this city alone, Mayor Michael Rama spent P1.8 million of his so-called discretionary funds on groceries, roasted pig, flowers and snacks, according to records from the city's Registry of Allotment and Obligations.

The same records also showed that Rama made a total of 276 "extraordinary charges" in his discretionary funds from January to June 30 this year.

Meals, snacks

These included charges for meals and snacks worth P2.823 million; various expenses totaling P1.272 million; and other expenses that included prizes, wood, T-shirts, ballroom, plaques, giveaways, publication and medical assistance, among others, totaling P1.65 million.

Rama also spent P423,600 on roasted pig, P233,988 on flower wands, P121,700 on flowers, P150,178 on groceries, P59,814 on office supplies and P19,389 on financial assistance.

Membership fee

One voucher for reimbursement showed that P11,870 was spent on groceries for "walk-in clients and other official purposes," which were not specified.

A voucher processed on May 21 was for the reimbursement of P15,000 that was paid for a "membership fee." Another voucher was processed on July 12 to reimburse P158,880 spent on roasted pig.

Reimbursements for payments made for roasted pig, worth P111,300, were made on Dec. 3 through four different vouchers: P55,000, P14,580, P24,300 and P17,2080.

A voucher dated May 29 was also attached to a reimbursement for meals amounting to P130,000 that were served during the distribution of cash incentives to village officials.

Another voucher, dated June 7, showed a payment of P20,388 for a flower stand.

Common practice

Mayor Rama said that the purchases of roasted pig are to order and itemized.

"From the other mayors do the same," he said.

Vice Mayor Joy Augustus Young said that the use of the mayor's discretionary funds is "wide in latitude" but this should not be abused.

AMUSEMENT
A monument parks, like this one on a vacant lot at the reclaimed property of the Cebu provincial government in Cebu City, spruce like amusement rides during the holidays, offering cheap rides for children and entertainment for families who would otherwise be in shopping malls.
TOTO LOZANO, PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Smuggling case leads to Customs execs' sacking

DAVAO CITY—The questionable release of cargo that had been misdeclared played a major role in the dismissal of two Customs officials here and the suspension of two others.

In a decision dated Nov. 29 and approved on Dec. 14, the Ombudsman Mindanao dismissed from service Anjo Neves Castigador, former Davao Customs collector who was transferred to Cagayan de Oro, and Abednahum Ermanild, assistant port collector.

Among the issues he the dismissal is the release by the officials of cargo that had not been thoroughly examined.

The cargo release was questioned by businessman Rodolfo Bula, who operated a Customs examination area here, when the Customs officials refused to see.

Bula had told the Customs officials for terminating a 23-year contract that allowed him to operate an examination area his cargo here.

Bula, in his complaint, said Castigador and the other Customs officials had been harassing him after his employees uncovered several attempts to smuggle in cargo using his Appointee Document Card (ACD), the examination area that the Customs had refused to use.

One of the alleged smuggling attempts took place in February 2010, when 40 container vans entered the ACT facility for inspection.

The contents of the container vans were declared as construction materials from Thailand but the scan yielded contraband.

Employees of ACT protested the containers from being moved out but Ermanild, the assistant port collector, issued a clearance that allowed the release of the questionable cargo.

Bula said he brought the matter to Castigador, then Customs chief here, but Castigador simply ordered the transfer of the cargo from the ACT facility to one operated by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA).

It was at that point when Castigador, through a lawyer, wrote to Bula informing him that the Customs office here was terminating the services of ACT.

In its 24-page decision approved by Deputy Ombudsman Humphrey Mauvenus on Dec. 14, the Ombudsman said it found enough evidence to dismiss Castigador and Ermanild from service.

Marilou Undan, graft investigation and prosecution officer, also recommended the suspension for six months of Customs examiners Lorrie Sarmiento and Mostar Amit.

The Customs officials had argued that terminating the services of Bula's company was in the best interest of the government.

The Ombudsman, however, took note of the February 2010 case. It said the Customs office failed to follow due process in the transfer of the questionable cargo from ACT to the PPA.

It said the release of the cargo and the failure of Customs officials to charge the consignee, Rupiel, were enough basis to determine the guilt of the Customs officials.

The Ombudsman also noted that the order to release the shipment was signed by assistant collector Ermanild on Feb. 24, 2010, although the shipment arrived two days later.

Ayen U. Mallejor, Inquirer Mindanao

PAMPANGA'S GIANT LANTERN FESTIVAL TO BRIGHTEN NEW YEAR AT THE SM MALL OF ASIA

SM Mall of Asia, the premier holiday destination by the iconic Manila Bay, will host the Manila leg of the internationally renowned Giant Lantern Festival. This annual festival is an event that showcases San Fernando, Pampanga as the Christmas capital of the country with the biggest and most festive Yuletide celebrations. For this holiday season, the organizers are bringing the famous festival closer to the metro with two spectacular shows at the SM Mall of Asia.

The Giant Lantern Exhibition will be brightening New Year's celebrations at SM by the Bay on December 31, 2012 and January 1, 2013. Participating lantern companies include Zial Lantern Lantern, Mr. Lucio Lantern, San Juan Lantern, Dolores Lantern, San Nicolas Lantern, and Colibrí Lantern. The brilliant, brilliant lion, often called the crowning glory of the world, thanks to the unique touch the Pampanga artists put on their lanterns, which are constructed with a wide variety of handmade and home grown materials.

SM Mall of Asia and the festival organizers hope to bring light and joy to the victims of Typhoon Pablo. Proceeds of the Giant Lantern Exhibition will be donated to the families who have suffered from the recent disaster.

For more information on the event, you can contact the City Disaster Office of Pampanga at (045) 961 - 2317. You may also like SM Mall of Asia's official Facebook page (www.facebook.com/smmallofasia) or follow the official Twitter account (@TheMallofAsia).

SOME of the controversial toys class depict houses that end up in the hands of children in Bulacan.
CARINA B. REYES-STEVENSON, PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Fetus toys raise alarm in Bulacan

BULACAN, Bulacan—Authorities are investigating the sale here of a "fetus toy," which children buy from a local store.

Mayor Patrick Meneses on Friday said he ordered the police and town government personnel to look into the sale of the toy—a plastic fetus sealed with a pills-like substance inside a container—which is imported from China.

"Any depiction of a fetus should not be treated as a toy" said the mayor. He said he ordered his men to investigate and remove the toys from stores.

The business talked to two 6-year-old children in Barangay Dagupan East Malolos, who bought the toy in a counter for P5 on Poblete Street.

It was labeled "Crystal Slime," marked "Made in China" and contained the instructions "Mix Load up. Don't swallow Poisonous."

"Their parents should be alerted to these toys. Some parents are unaware of what their children are able to buy from the streets," Meneses said.

He said the store that sold the toys is supplied by a businessman who deals in accessories popular among children. Carmelo Reyes-Estrope, Inquirer Central Luzon

INQUIRER Mindanao

Edna Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nino A. Alcantara

From mining to forest protection

By Chris V. Panganiban
San Francisco, Agusan del Sur

ALL THEIR lives, they were small-scale miners until last year, when they were turned into forest guards of the Mt. Magdiwata watershed in San Francisco, Agusan del Sur.

Called the "second fence" of the watershed's buffer zone at the foot of the mountain, they now lead production drives, working on small parcels of land developed into organic agroforestry farms while giving the daunting task of protecting the more than 2,600-hectare watershed from illegal tree cutters and timber poachers.

The program was initiated by the San Francisco Water District (SFWD) last year, tapping eight former small-scale miners who were willing to change their lives by shifting from environmentally destructive livelihood activities into eco-friendly farming while becoming protectors of the forest.

San Francisco was spared from the onslaught of Typhoon "Sendong" which devastated neighboring provinces, thanks to Magdiwata's natural shield of thick forest.

Under the SFWD's "Save Sira Irgisan Say Daigdan Ko (Only your land and we'll pay)," each of the farmer beneficiaries would be given P5,000 in financial support, to be divided into three farming development stages.

Organic farming

Since settling their families within the 200-meter buffer zone of Magdiwata, the new farmers grow organic vegetables, yam, corn and fruit trees that would sustain their daily subsistence and be freed from the rigors of day-to-day survival as the gold rush areas in neighboring towns.

"The situation is so different now because we no longer have to worry about what to eat in our daily lives since we can easily get vegetables and other vegetables from our backyard," said Cordelinda Bongacas, 50, who has eight children.

Jimpeat had been an "absentee" (gold contractor) in the outreach of the gold-rich mining village of Tandoc in Bunigan del Sur for more than two decades.

Aside from Bongacas, the other program beneficiaries are Rodolfo Magwinda, 57; Wilbert Alabado, 55, and Teodoro Maramo, 59, who were also tapped for their mastery of the mountain terrain.

Shield vs typhoons

Magdiwata, which is part of Diwata mountain range that traverse the neighboring provinces of Surigao del Sur and Compostela Valley, was considered endangered over a decade ago with a receding water source.

Elmer Lucas, SFWD general manager, said that among the targets, only Magdiwata has about 90 percent of forest cover—good enough to protect residents from any typhoon.

In 1997, the water agency initiated a major rehabilitation program covering at least 920 hectares of denuded and open grasslands of Magdiwata after it was declared a watershed forest reserve by Presidential Proclamation No. 582. The program has brought more than enough supply of water to more than 3,000 households.

"In our source alone, we can already cop an increase of 30 liters per second, a significant increase from 5 liters per second to 2004," Lucas said.

Next year, he said, the SFWD will tap more "social fence" farmers in other areas of the buffer zone still threatened by the incursion of illegal logging, small-scale mining, and sand and gravel quarrying.

THELPHUTD naked dad. It shows the impunity with which logging continues despite an executive order issued by President Aquino that banned all commercial logging in natural and residual forests. These logs are made to float in the Sawar River in Lucrets, Agusan del Sur, in Barangay Mauro Grusia. They are to be transported to the Agusan River, passing by a militia camp near the river band.

A Dazzling Christmas for PWDs

From sparkling trees to parols that light up the streets, Christmas has always been known for alluring light displays and spectacular colors. This year, the SM Cares Program on Disability Affairs brought the wonder and joys of Christmas to young persons with disability (PWDs) in the form of a magical light parade entitled "2012 Grand Festival of Lights at the SM Mall of Asia."

The parade featured grand floats which lit up the streets around the mall. Besides the amazing display of lights and colors, the floats were also accompanied by dancers and performers, adding even more entertainment to the festive occasion. And while some children with visual impairments might not have been able to fully appreciate the sights, the beauty of Christmas was not lost on them as they reveled in love and laughter that filled the area as the event progressed. After the parade, they were also treated to a spectacular fireworks display held at SM By the Bay, drawing cheers and wonderment from the onlookers. The event also served as an eye-opener, breaking barriers by increasing the awareness of the community.

SM has strived to make all of its malls sensitive to the needs of PWDs by addressing various accessibility concerns and by training its mall force and tenants on how to handle differently-abled customers. It also continuously finds ways and means to make every SM happymall a special home for them.

Visit www.facebook.com/smcaresprogram to know more about SM Cares and learn how you can make the world a better place for PWDs.

SUPERMALLS
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Small blessings

DESPITE ITS arrival being unseasonably late, Tropical Storm "Quinta" (international name: "Wakong") left the Philippines relatively unscathed, leaving nine people dead and several others missing. Of course, every death is costly, and the floods in Iloilo have been awful, sending tens of thousands of Filipinos away from their homes, but Quinta could have done so much worse.

EDITORIAL Thankfully, the storm left just as quickly as it came, and the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) was able to lower virtually all storm signals by Dec. 26.

Pagasa forecaster Bernie de Leon gave us all a bit of good news: "So far, the Pacific looks clear, and that is where storms usually form, so we believe Quinta may be the last storm of the year."

That is welcome information for a country still reeling from the lashing it took from Typhoon "Pablo," which ravaged Mindanao in early December, leaving more than 1,300 people dead and still some 800 missing. Entire villages had been erased in its path and now the homeless and grief-stricken survivors have hunkered down for a difficult, humble holiday season.

In Baganga, Davao Oriental, Domingo Dapaas struggled to find something to celebrate as she and her family are now living in makeshift houses. "We have nothing left after Pablo pummeled our village. We know we are poor and we have suffered numerous crises in our lives, but this will really be a different Christmas. We do not even have rice on our table. I hope I can cook pancit for my children for *noche buena*," Dapaas said. "But we are trying really hard not to allow this disaster to spoil our celebration of the birth of Christ."

Happily, the season remains one of giving. In the Hong New Bataan, Compostela Valley, one of the hardest hit areas, volunteers came to spend Christmas with the displaced families, distributing much-needed relief goods and helping solve the wounds from the deadly wave of floods, mud and fallen tree trunks—a scene that was repeated in evacuation centers across Mindanao.

It has escaped no one's notice that the storms have been particularly cruel as of late, as if each one were trying to upstage the other in terms of damage and number of casualties. Almost exactly a year prior to Pablo's passage of destruction this year, Tropical Storm "Sendong" swooped down and viciously rearranged the Mindanao geography, causing some P1.3 billion in damage to agriculture and property and snuffing out another 1,300 lives. In 2009, "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" seemingly took turns pummeling the country with wind and water.

Something, it seems, is terribly wrong with our weather. According to a report by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the Philippines among all Asian countries suffered the second highest number of natural disasters during the first 10 months of the year—and that's not including Pablo. The UNISDR report noted that the Philippines suffered through the massive monsoon flooding in August as well as the February earthquake in the Visayas region; all told, some 6.2 million Filipinos were affected by the various natural disasters. UNISDR chief Margareta Wahlstrom warned that there was no room for complacency: "We must still contend with the fact that risk is growing faster than wealth is being created. Exposure is on the rise and flooding represents a serious challenge to Asian cities as we have seen earlier this year in Beijing and Manila where these two cities were partly flooded in a couple of hours."

This deadly development is not limited to the region. The United States, for instance, has endured the most unpredictable storm season since records were kept, with tornadoes and blizzards disrupting lives across the country up into the Christmas holiday. Even more worrisome, the European Space Agency has reported that a sizable ice shelf on the Antarctic peninsula has shrunk by a whopping 85 percent over the last 17 years. This is proof of global warming growing worse, a reality that too many world leaders refuse to see because of its implications.

All things considered, then, the weather's wallop at the end of a disaster-filled year packed less punch than our worst experience led us to expect (or to fear), and for that alone we give thanks. But gratitude must go hand in hand with resolution; we must resolve to stamp out continuing practices such as illegal logging and other kinds of environmental plunder, an awful cocktail that helps agitate global weirding.

In the meantime, let us be thankful for the small blessings, for the presence of beloved family despite challenging circumstances, and hope that the coming year will be kinder to us all.

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A question of heroes

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

OF THE varied fare produced by the year's Metro Manila Film Festival, it was "El Presidente," the film depicting the life of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, that I was most eager to watch. Films about a nation's heroes are always tricky affairs. If they show nothing less about the person or the circumstances in which they lived, they risk becoming merely boring. If, on the other hand, they set out to project heroes in a new light, they are likely to have the question: what is fiction and what is fact?

For people who are familiar with the nationalist movement surrounding Aguinaldo's role in the nation's history, "El Presidente" might prove cheap pointing. It neither poses new questions nor offers new answers to old questions. But, the film's important contribution because Aguinaldo deserves greater appreciation as a hero than he has been accorded. The film takes this perspective, in arguing its case, it encounters two difficulties. The film is known to do it without trampling on the memory of other heroes. The second is how to construct a nuanced historical narrative that can sustain the type of movie goer's attention.

One shudders at a result like "John Adams," an American television series which now hurtles down into episodes of about an hour each. In the panorama of American history, Adams occupies a far less illustrious position than his contemporaries—George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin. The film takes pains to recount in the last episode of the United States of America as a political entity, as seen from Adams' perspective. As the film progresses, one acquires a deep appreciation not only of the complex and crucial role of John Adams in US history but, as well, of the tardy and painful process of the emergence of America into a self-governing nation cobbled together from autonomous former colonies.

"El Presidente" might have been able to argue its case better if it had been similarly structured as a weekly TV series, thus allowing it greater leeway in developing Aguinaldo's character and setting him in the context of his time and society. As a full-length film, it tried to recount Aguinaldo's life from birth to death in about two hours and 15 minutes. Its shots are fleeting, and the narrative is so fragmented that it is difficult to follow. Even the actor who played Aguinaldo, Jericho Rosales, was not given enough time to develop the character. He was made to look like a puppet, mouthing lines that were not his own.

My wife and I had persuaded our grandchildren, a math-popular set of Marians, to watch the movie with us. Julia—now into her third debate/public speaking contest—was impressed with the performance of Rosales. Jose, who is into history, was disappointed. "Lolo, I know," she said, "the Magdiwang and the Magdalo and all that."

But, being able to name the contending factions within the Katipunan is not the same as knowing the social conditions that underpinned those divisions. Was it a generation of social Ilustrados—the Filipino principalia versus the newcomers too? Or was it a question of local affluence standing in the way of unity? It is difficult to say.

My hope was that a movie about Aguinaldo could delve into such issues. By doing so, it might at least provide many discussion points for history classes. "El Presidente" glossed over these instead. It shows the Cavite Katipuneros led by Aguinaldo to be gracious and deferential in their reception of the visiting Supremo, discounting the possibility of any preconceived plan to marginalize him. In contrast, Aguinaldo is depicted as completely indifferent to formal protocols; a soldier who would rather fight at the trenches than attend a convention to elect a president.

Aguinaldo is shown as having opposed the idea of carrying out the death sentence against the Bonifacios for the crime of treason. This seems to be in keeping with the noble, unique character and non-confrontational character in which he is cast. This forgiving demeanor contrasts sharply with that of Antonio Luna, the brilliant general who was belittled by a volcanic temper. The film portrays Luna in an unflattering way, showing him at his impulsive worst as a person and mentioning nothing of his considerations and masterful grasp of military strategy in the war against the Americans.

Heroes are human beings like the rest of us. They have doubts, fears, hopes, weaknesses and strengths. They are complex and often irresistible. But their role in history is altogether different. It is defined by how they acted at crucial points in the evolution of their people—whether they sought their long-term advantage or chose submission.

Aguinaldo's heroism is beyond doubt. And I am glad that, despite its flaws, the film commissioned my granddaughter that he was a good man and a worthy hero of our nation. Perhaps Aguinaldo's unique misfortune is that, unlike most of our other heroes who were martyred at the height of their youth, he lived too long. He found himself swearing allegiance to the new conquerors who had overthrown him. Subsequent episodes of public repudiation—as when he ran for the presidency of the Commonwealth government in 1935 and lost against Quezon—climaxed that dizzying moment of June 12, 1898 when he could have recently rested on his laurels.

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Strengthening the family

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a teacher who asked his students: "If 10 refers to the family as offspring of dogs, what family or offspring does 8 refer to?" One student stood up and said: "8 is! Cute, no one!"

* * *

Today is the Feast of the Holy Family. Thank God for family. Let us preserve and protect the family from anything or anyone that would destroy it. Be wary therefore of any society and nation, family is not just about offspring. It is about parents and children united in love and where God's presence abides.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 11: 22) we hear of the dolorosa of Joseph and Mary when they realized that they have lost the Child Jesus, and their untold joy when they finally found Him in the temple. Every member of the family, good or bad, is precious. May we not appreciate their person and presence only when they are already gone or about to go.

* * *

We salute parents who give and do their very best to raise their children so that like the Child Jesus, the children advance "in wisdom and age, and favor before God and men." There, I dare a hero. Only God knows what you have gone through and what you go through in being birth and rather good children. *Mabuhay po kayo!*

* * *

"Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my father's house?" Jesus, for reminded today that no matter how much you love them, your children belong to God more than to you. They have a personal relationship and mission for God which none not be hindered. One of the greatest lessons parents must learn is letting go and letting God.

* * *

On the other hand, the day Jesus reminds children today to be obedient to one's parents. It pays to be obedient. How many problems and miseries could have been avoided if only we obeyed our parents!

* * *

Every wishing parents that the love they give to their children return to them a hundredfold. It is so painful to hear stories about parents who in their old age are neglected or altogether abandoned by their children.

* * *

On my way to a dawn Mass near the mid-road lunch in Tampakan, Manila last Dec. 23, I stopped by talk to Lola Nemesia who was rummaging through the garbage to save a living in somehow help her two children and their families, she said. I mean, this was being done by a 68-year-old at 4:00 in the morning! She joined the Mass and soon after the Mass, I saw her go back to her business of earning a living for her family again.

* * *

We have often said that we should not postpone loving our loved ones especially at Christmas because we don't know if we will still be around next Christmas. I realized this yesterday when driving to my 5 a.m. dawn Mass in Lumbia Hospital last Dec. 19, I was almost bumped from behind by a car driven by a drunk driver. I mean, anything could have happened right there and then. After hearing the loud screech of tires, and realizing I was unharmed, I pulled over to the side, and said a prayer of thanks, and saw a young man overtake me and put drive on by. Just like that.

* * *

Sitting at the back of San Sebastian Church

yesterday after a wedding, my mind went back to the time when I would spend some moments in the church while waiting for our next-door neighbor Jojo to fetch me from school when I was an elementary school student in San Sebastian College. I remember too how I would drop whatever extra coins I had from my allowance in a box that had a "For the Poor" sign. I never imagined that someday I would be saying Mass at that Church. I am filled with gratitude to our parents who taught us about values and about God, and who always said us to live meaningful lives. Papa and Mama, thank you very much!

* * *

As we begin a new year, let us reflect on this: "The purpose of your time on earth is not primarily about acquiring possessions, attaining status, achieving success, or even experiencing happiness. These are secondary issues. Life is all about love of God and love of neighbor. You may succeed in many areas, but if you fail to learn to love God and others, you will have missed the reason why God created you."

* * *

But a happy and peaceful 2011, remember: "Life is too short to be unhappy, so laugh when you can, apologize when you should, let go of what you can't change, love deeply, forgive quickly, take chances, smile when you are sad. Love what you get, and stay faithful to what you have. People change and things go wrong, but with God's grace, life is, and will be, beautiful."

* * *

Praying that 2011 will be a better year for all of us, in all aspects, in Jesus' name. Amen.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, bless all members of our family, living or dead, present or absent, and bless especially those who need conversion, healing and peace. Heal our broken relationships, and make us whole again as a family and as a nation. Amen.

Decision-making 102

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio T. Pangalangan

THIS IS a sequel to my Oct. 7 column in which I opined that judicial decision-making could be reduced, in its simplest terms, into an Aristotelian syllogism, and that most of the time, the crucial part of the syllogism is the minor premise or whether the facts alleged in the complaint or information have been duly proven.

Search for facts. The factoid is just one other set submitted by the parties, or taken judicial notice of by the courts, or some other process in accordance with the rules of evidence. Specifically, facts are proven by the (testimonial) oath of witnesses. Their testimony is first assessed by trial judges, and by appellate courts, based on the demeanor and conduct of witnesses while being examined on the stand.

Why? Because trial judges observe the witnesses as on the stand, while appellate courts rely merely on the transcripts of the testimonies. Similar assessment of credibility happens in everyday family life, as when a mother listens to a crying son relate how an older sister allegedly hurried him, and then sides with him on a wayward husband replacing liquid marbles on his desk.

In these everyday hearings, as in a court room, the credibility of the witness is most crucial. If the witness capable of being believed and if the story he tells also worthy of credence? Even when the witness may really want to be truthful, the witness is subject to the frailties of memory to know the facts? Did he have the time to observe and the ability to remember details? Truly, the witness' integrity, capacity to observe and to recount details must be tested for their consistency and conformity with common experience.

From time to time (and up to now), the best way to test credibility is vigorous cross-examination. This is particularly true when the testimony takes the form of affidavits, which are often prepared by lawyers, not by the witnesses. This evidentiary effect can indeed and should be applied with searching cross-examination on these "(a)" inherent, consistency and correctness. The best testimony which is a concise statement of the facts and issues, and an epilogue, which is a summary of the key legal principles involved in the judgment.

The statement of the case is a legal definition of the nature of the litigation. In the statement of the facts, the judge may summarize without comment the testimony of each witness and the contents of the documents submitted, or may sum up the facts per his evaluation of the evidence.

It is important to state plainly the issues or questions brought up by parties. The court's ruling should address each of these issues, unless they are so interrelated that they cannot be ruled on individually.

In a criminal case, the disposition should include a finding of innocence or guilt, the specific crime committed, the penalty imposed, the participation of the accused, the modifying circumstances if any, and the civil liability and costs. In case an acquittal is decreed, the court must order the immediate release of the accused, if detained, unless they are being held for another reason and subject to the discretion of the Court of Appeals or whenever the accused are sentenced to report, within a maximum of 48 days from notice, the exact date when the accused were set free.

In a civil case, the disposition should state whether the complaint or petition is granted or denied, the specific relief granted, and the costs. The following rest of complainants may be applied. First, the parties should know their rights and obligations. Second, they should know how to execute the decision. Third, there should be no need for further proceedings to dispose of the issues. Fourth, the case should be terminated by the proper relief. The "proper relief" usually depends upon what the parties seek in their pleadings. It may decide their rights and duties, command the performance of positive acts, or order them to abstain from doing such acts.

• • •

(Comments to: dec@post.queryandmail@hotmail.com)

Where they should be

UPON SEEING the burial jars, I had to take a deep breath. I had to keep the tears from flowing.

I was in the University of San Carlos (USC) Museum in Cebu City, and the burial jars I had come to see were taken half a century ago from Kalanay Pantan, my hometown in Mindanao. For several weeks before the visit, I spent hours almost every day doing research online on the archeological artifacts. By now, my eyes were glazed and getting over downloadable academic papers. I felt that I had been a witness to the journey of the burial jars. Here they were discovered in 1962 by caves and rock shelters in our town and ended up in museums in the Visayas, Luzon, and even as far away as the United States.

Seeing the jars for the first time, typically, my fingers along their vertical ridges, staring straight at the hollow eyes of their anthropomorphic covers. I felt restricted with long hair tied into a bun. I had touched a burial jar in my mouth for identity. I had claimed a missing part of me.

The last jars of Kalanay Pantan were taken in that they are carved out of limestone, no contact, most ancient jars found in other areas of the Philippines are made of clay. The Dalangan Manobo, the original inhabitants of Kalanay Pantan, used the jars during the late Neolithic (or Early Iron) Age to store the bones of their departed family members. In the analysis of human bones found in one of the jars, the radiocarbon yielded a radiocarbon date of 580 AD, plus or minus 80 years.

I learned about the limestone jars only this year, when a cousin asked for help for her graduate-studies research on the Dalangan Manobo. Browsing the web, I was surprised to find that my hometown had once been home to priceless archaeological artifacts. Before them, Kalanay Pantan is now nothing more than a dreary grocery-stricken settlement atop the mountains of Sultan Kudarat. I also had an impression that the Manobo of my province do not have a cult culture since they appear to be the least documented among the indigenous tribes of Mindanao. I was only too glad to discover Kalanay Pantan's significant contribution to Philippine and even Southeast Asian studies.

It seems, however, that I learned about the limestone jars decades too late. Our local government does not operate a museum and does not have a single burial jar in its possession. Most Dalangan Manobo now have adopted the practice of Christian settlers of burying the dead in the ground, as they no longer make use of secondary burial. Some Dalangan Manobo families still keep urns, they are probably hiding them in cases that are difficult to access. Considering the topography of Kalanay Pantan, it probably has more than a hundred caves.) Therefore, residents of the plateau like me who want to see the ancient buried jars have to travel for at least 500 miles and visit a museum.

I hesitated to my daughter that I could have seen the burial jars earlier had I been aware of their existence. I had worked in Cebu for nearly two years, and on my stay there, I had passed the USC campus several times. I also visited the National Museum in Manila last year. I spent several minutes gazing at the Maitreyan jar in the museum's Ayala Gallery. Other than Maitreyan, Sarangani, but I didn't notice any limestone jars from Kalanay Pantan which, according to some scholars, were on display in the same room. In short, I was accepted as a fellow at a writing workshop in Cebu last November, I promised myself that I would visit USC, and see the jars.

USC was the first university that established formal research on the limestone burial jars, in late 1961. The research team, led by Marcelino Maceda, excavated two caves in Sitio Bong, a hamlet within Kalanay Pantan, which was then a part of the municipality of Antonio. In 1999, Kalanay Pantan became the seat of government of the newly created municipality of Lutayan. Before the burial jars left the attic of USC, however, a couple of limestone jars found their way to the museum of the University of Santo Tomas in Manila in 1954. By 1971, or at least so website, does not expressly label the burial jars at its collection as finds from Kalanay Pantan.

The second exploration in Kalanay Pantan was conducted in 1966 by Wilhelm Solheim II, then a professor at USC. In the magazine, Sources discovered limestone jars and rumbowsan vessels in cave sites and rock shelters in Sarangani (still part of Kalanay Pantan but technically a village of the municipality of Lutayan). Soon after, Solheim II, Fredrick of Miami University and Greg Urbahn of the University of Oregon led a team of archaeologists to excavate the Sarangani sites with fifth man and explored Sarangani in 1967 and 1968.

The artifacts from Sarangani are now on display at the museum in the Gillman campus. A few of them are in Ayala Museum in Makati. Another less academic treasure that has Kalanay jars to its collection is that of Richard Gervais in California in the United States. According to the website of the private museum, its owner bought the jars in 1960s while traveling in Mindanao. Gervais was able to acquire one fragment and eight burial jars, two of which have been sold to the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco. He is now selling the fragment for $300 and the six remaining jars for amounts ranging from $2,000 to $5,000.

It is sad that the jars were taken away from their original sites, even if the institutions involved have done so much in preserving them and informing the public of their significance. It is despicable that some of the jars are blatantly put on sale online as though they were limited-edition art. But my anger is directed more at the unlawful trade, a prize tag on archaeological artifacts that are irreplaceable treasures of a tribe, a locality, and even a nation.

If I had the money, I would buy all the burial jars now on display in California and take them back to my hometown. Unfortunately, all I can afford to do is see the ones that are in museums in the Philippines. I have booked an online destination to visit, and there are a few more to go.

Whatever museum I will visit, however, I have a feeling the experience will be the same: Upon seeing the jars, I will have to take a deep breath. I will have to keep the tears from flowing. So, I won't let myself cry. I'll cry only, in big sobs, the limestone burial jars are back in Kalanay Pantan, where they came from, where they should be.

Rolly Jude M. Ortega, 27, is a freelance and contract writer.

YOUNG BLOOD

Rolly Jude M. Ortega

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the youth (see guidelines at the end of this column). Send your articles to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph, together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

Rizal would have been pro-RH

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE COUNTRY observes the 116th anniversary of the execution of Jose Rizal today, a solemn counterpoint to the revelry and joie that will surely follow tomorrow, as we mark the close of this old year and the arrival of the new one.

I don't know if Rizal's martyrdom (that's my—why the Spanish authorities chose to put Rizal to death just a day before New Year's Eve, and so soon after December, which does as new must have been as grand a public holiday as Filipinos could muster.

But there you are. But since the underlying reasoning behind the Christmas and New Year's season (the adoring years recalling the martyrdom of our beloved hero.

Rizal's death anniversary today becomes especially significant because of several developments. One, as illustrated in a front-page news photo, people in Calamba's Rizal Shrine (the Rizal family home) marks the centenary of the "formal and final" internment of Rizal, when his remains were transferred from the artist's home in Binondo to the base of the Rizal monument in Luneta. A descendant of Rizal's sister Lucia, Jose Ramon Real, who presided over the session that President Aquino.

Second, Rizal received a measure of justice as "his natural" film of the three (Manila Film Festival, which, per titled "El Presidente" on the life and historical viewpoint of Emilio Aguinaldo. During a heated debate over the RH bill in the House of Representatives, the various factions of the Kalipunan, someone suggested that to avoid a conflict between the "Magdiwang" faction led by Andres Bonifacio and the "Magdalo" faction led by Aguinaldo, they name to Rizal head of the new leadership. Even then, Rizal was regarded as a leader of the reformist, if not revolutionary, movement, and recognized as the primary voice against Spanish colonialism.

But common points out that Rizal was correct in unconvinced, and in the case, a military court had found him guilty of "insurrection" and ordered his execution.

• • •

THE THIRD reason Rizal deserves mention today, more than a hundred years after his passing, is that his name, his views, and his memories life increasingly are being used to argue both

the "pro" and "anti" sides of the debate over the reproductive health bill.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has apparently appropriated Rizal's image in a banner quoting the hero's declaration that "The young are the hope of the Nation." Then, below Rizal's portrait, the banner declares "Repeal or Rid RH Bill, praise Jesus Rizal had that said, the RH Bill, children are a blessing so did?" Apparently, the banner refers to what the bishops believe will be even greater access to abortion once the bills signed into law.

In its slogan, "The Filipino Serbia," the writer questions the CBCP's implication that Jose Rizal would have been against the RH bill as he was three ago; on the contrary, says the writer, citing Rizal's famous "Letter to the Women of Malolos," he encouraged them to continue their agitation for the establishment of an educational institution for women. Rizal, the writer continues, believed that local Catholic authorities had sought to block.

"Because discovered that it is not goodness to limit our obedient to every desire and request of those who pose as little gods, but to obey what is reasonable and just, because God obedience is the origin of freedom and not its destruction," the writer concludes, "Rizal wrote in his letter.

"Rizal is pro-education and pro-women empowerment. He is also anti-Catholic dogmatism. And if Rizal were alive today, he will most likely be seen as the darkest of the pro-RH camp, no doubt," declares "The Filipino Serbia."

• • •

PEOPLE, regardless of where one National Hero stands on this continuing controversial debate, a hostile manner for apparently the "RH bill" has already bandaged into law.

as ally of President Aquino, Rep. Janette Garin, one of the champions of the RH bill in the House, says if they will formally announce today by signing into law of the bill measure. Garin said the President signed the bill into law last Dec. 23, and that the bill will henceforth be known as Republic Act No. 10354.

"We can see Aquino's intention to give families better quality of life and, at the same time, reach out to opponents of the RH bill," Garin said, apparently trying to give a positive spin to the rather confrontational signing.

Others interpret the very law key signing as a way to "appease" the ruffled sensibilities of Filipino bishops who felt themselves rebuffed with the passage of the measure. Maybe it's meant to dampen what one commentator called the "pro-women" fanaticism of the Aquino-supporters.

Well, let me tell you. Compared to the relentless torchlit in the wake of the signing of other "pro-women" fanatics, like the Progressive Alex Lacson, the Anti-Sexual Harassment Law or the Anti-Rape Law, the RH bill signing was positively circumspect. Not a single Catholic supporter of abortion to the wake of the RH law have been reborn and sober—if still happy and joyful. Can't you even let us sinners celebrate?

• • •

I KNOW I know. The bishops and their rabid followers are moaning. Not all their outcry wearing pressure in the House, their demonstrations from the pulpit, the parades of women in red could deter the march of progress.

But there was also much to be joyful for, much to be grateful for, much to be proud about this singular achievement. Indeed, the new law was never meant to bring down the bishops, much less the institutional Catholic Church. If at all, the new law is meant to help women and men realize their own reproductive dreams and goals, to help them get only the number of children they can afford and a real education in what it means to be human, to be living and to be sexual.

That is something worth celebrating, and I would have wanted to see others joining in the revelry of happy and reproductive men and women.

Asia's 'Democratic Security Diamond'

WORLD VIEW

Shinzo Abe

TOKYO—In the summer of 2007, addressing the Central Hall of the Indian Parliament as Japan's prime minister, I spoke of the "Confluence of the Two Seas"—a phrase that I drew from the title of a book written by the Mughal prince Dara Shikoh in 1655—to the applause and stamping approval of the assembled lawmakers. Over the five years since then, I have become even more strongly convinced than what I said was correct.

Peace, stability and freedom of navigation in the Pacific Ocean are inseparable from peace, stability and freedom of navigation in the Indian Ocean. The indispensable affecting each are more closely connected than ever. Japan, as one of the oldest sea-faring democracies in Asia, should play a greater role in preserving peace and stability in this region.

So, increasingly, the South China Sea seems set to become a "Lake Beijing," which analysts say will be to China what the Sea of Okhotsk was to former Russia: a sea deep enough for the People's Liberation Army Navy to base its nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines, from the PLA navy's newly built aircraft carrier will be a common sight—more than sufficient to scare China's neighbors.

That is why Japan must step up its efforts to help the Chinese government's daily exercises in coercion around the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea. True, only Chinese law enforcement vessels with light weaponry, not PLA navy ships, have entered the 12-nautical-mile territorial waters around the five uninhabited islands that Tokyo controls—but even that "gender" touch should find no one. By making those heavy presence appear ordinary, China seeks to accustom its jurisdiction to the waters surrounding the islands to a fait accompli.

If Japan were to yield, then the South China Sea would become even more fortified. Freedom of navigation, vital for trading countries such as Japan and South Korea, would be seriously hindered. The naval assets of the United States, in addition to those of Japan, would find it difficult to move the entire area, though the majority of the new China seas are international waters.

Anxious that such a development could arise, I spoke in India of the need for the Indian and Japanese governments to join together to shoulder more responsibility as guardians of navigational freedom across the Pacific and Indian oceans. I must confess that I failed to anticipate how Chinese naval activities would accelerate, would advance at the pace they've since 2007.

The ongoing disputes in the East China Sea and the South China Sea mean that Japan's top foreign policy priority must be to expand the country's strategic horizons and to deepen its maritime democracy and its desire of close partners should reflect that fact. I envisage a strategy whereby tourists, India, Japan and the US make of Hawaii form a diamond to safeguard the maritime commons stretching from the Asia-Pacific region to the western Pacific. I am prepared to assist, to the greatest possible extent, Japan's capabilities in this security diamond.

My opponents to the democratic Party of Japan government (DPJ) have criticized me because I said last in 2007, that to say they have sought to strengthen ties with Australia and India.

Of the two countries, India—a resident power in East Asia, with the Andaman and Nicobar islands sitting at the western end of the Strait of Malacca (through which some 40 percent of world trade passes)...deserves greater emphasis. Japan is now engaged in regular bilateral services, to-service, military dialogues with India, and has begun joint exercises with the Indian Navy and the United States. And India's government has shown its political savvy by forging an agreement to provide Japan with rare earth minerals—a vital component in many manufacturing processes—after China chose to use its supplies of rare earths as a diplomatic stick.

I would also invite Britain and France to stage a comeback in terms of participating in strengthening Asia's security. The seafaring democracies in Japan's part of the world would be most welcome to join with them in naval exercises. The United Kingdom still finds value in the Five Power Defense Arrangements with Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand. I urge Japan to join this group, perhaps initially as an observer. There is also room for cooperation with Russia—small-sized military drills. Meanwhile, France's Pacific Fleet in Tahiti operates on a mini multilateral but could well punch above its weight.

Thus Japan, in cooperation with the United States, is poised to reinforce its alliance with the United States. In a period of American strategic rebalancing toward the Asia-Pacific region, the United States needs Japan as much as Japan needs the United States. Japan must be the most reliable ally, dependable, and nuclear deterrent to 2011, the US military provided by Japan the largest peacetime humanitarian relief operation ever mounted—powerful evidence that the 60 year bond that the treaty alliance has created is not just military but also humanitarian. Japan must be the most important friend America has with respect to Japan could play only a reduced regional and global role.

I, for one, admit that Japan's relationship with its biggest neighbor, China, is vital to the world because of its size, history and its intimate East Japanese relations. Japan must first anchor its ties on the other side of the Pacific; for, at the end of the day, Japan's diplomatic goal always be rooted in democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights, the universal values Japan guided Japan's postwar development. Firmly believe that, in 2013 and beyond, the Asia-Pacific region's future prosperity should rest on them as well.

Project Syndicate

Abe is the 90th incoming prime minister of Japan. He wrote this article in November before Japan's parliamentary election.

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Edna Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Holiday feast SANS ILL SIDE EFFECTS

By Tessa Salazar

THE USUAL holiday feast is almost always accompanied by "undesirable gifts" of heart attacks, strokes and other lifestyle diseases.

The combination of eating delicious rich foods like meat-most dishes, binging on alcohol and enjoying all-night revelries can be deadly. So-we-do-some health experts call this season the "Merry Christmas concours" or the "Happy New Year heart attack."

Since our bodies produce cholesterol for our needs, we do not need external sources, according to the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM), a US-based nonprofit organization made up of doctors, dietitians, psychologists, nurses, other science and health professionals, and lay people.

Cholesterol is found in all foods that come from animals: meat (pork and beef), poultry, fish, eggs, milk, cheese, yoghurt and so on. Choosing low cuts of meat supposedly to avoid cholesterol is a myth; much of the cholesterol is, in fact, in the lean portion.

Unwanted cholesterol

Filipino nutritionist-dietitian Rhonda Miranda Verona says cholesterol is a substance essential. When we consume the "internal organs of animals [in the form of dishes like atay, balun-balun, isaw, which contain thousands of milligrams of cholesterol," we also consume unwanted cholesterol, says Verona.

PCRM, which promotes preventive medicine, says "every four-ounce serving of beef or chicken contains 300 mg of cholesterol. Also, most shellfish are very high in cholesterol. All animal products should be avoided for this reason. By contrast, no foods from plants contain cholesterol."

Saturated fat

Animal products also contain saturated fat, which causes the liver to produce more cholesterol. Beef, chicken, and most other animal products contain substantial amounts of saturated fat. A few vegetable oils are also high in saturated fats.

Verona says that blood cholesterol and triglycerides can also go up if we gamble oil is taken in large amounts.

Every time we indulge our cholesterol level by 1 percent, we reduce our risk of heart disease by 2 percent, according to the Lipid Research Clinic's Coronary Primary Prevention Trial Results (1 Journal of the American Medical Association 1984).

Risk factors

Ninety percent of Filipino adults have at least one risk factor for atherosclerosis (the thickening of the walls of the artery as a result of the accumulation of fatty materials, which can lead to heart disease, organ failure, stroke and a host of other so-called lifestyle diseases), says the National Nutrition and Health Survey, an interagency study participated in by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute.

The study identified the risk factors as dyslipidemia (high cholesterol level), diabetes, hypertension, smoking and obesity.

Tasty, cholesterol-free

Given these facts, more health conscious Filipinos have aimed for a "smooth and still tasty transition" to a cholesterol-free alternative in the usual Christmas feast.

They have discovered or rediscovered these versions of the traditional meat-based favorites: Vegetarian buns, drinkable mushroom and tofu embutido, tofu dong, no-meat spaghetti, whole-wheat shiitake mushroom asado and the like. These are now more accessible to the public with the increasing number of vegetarian restaurants sprouting all over the country.

An online site has been helpful in delivering vegetarians and open-minded diners to restaurants nearest their locales. The site, iwinebuppenow.com, lists down the addresses and contact numbers of all vegetarian and vegetarian-friendly restaurants and food stores, and includes short descriptions of the establishments. Just type in your location anywhere in the world.

Support groups on Facebook, such as Pinoyvegs (composed of 800 members), enable members to network and share new discoveries or recipes with fellow vegetarians.

Vegetarian Kitchen Restaurant on Mother Ignacia Street in Quezon City (in front of St. Mary's College) has to date four outlets in the metro. Spanish cuisine, tocadera embutido with mushroom gravy, baked vega-ham in whole strawberry sauce, sweetbreads and beef spanish tongue in rich tomato sauce, vegan corned cube and skinless frankfurter sausages, and other vegan and vegetarian dishes.

Vegetarian 'kalderetas'

Vegan lifestyle advocate Nona Arabejo-Castillo has her own recipe of vegetarian kalderetas, a mix of tomato sauce, coconut milk and fried or baked tofu cubes (tinapa-style, which consists of tofu, shiitake mushroom sliced or fresh) and tomato cream sauce—cubes and with shredded tofu.

Taiwan-made assorted veggie items sold at the Daily Veggies store in Quezon City not only tickle the real thing, but have the ISO 9000 quality assurance stamp. The businesses, according to Daily Veggies proprietress Susan Chua, are encouraged to submit its government-accredited laboratories any suspicious food products and report them to health authorities.

Concerned citizens are rewarded part of the cash from the penalties paid by erring manufacturers.

Other versions of veggie buns, as well as the restaurant's best-selling crispy siu pao (bean curd) and sweet-and-sour lemon nuggets are also available.

Vegetarian niche lovers aspire to make fresh greens, nuts, organic condiments as well as veggie meat from non-GMO producers such as vegan zeitgeist Doris-Oscar Atmo's vegetarian store.

The recommended veggie burgers in Bistro Mendo (which's three offered at Corner Tree Café Uniplace Silver in Makati) and Spice Vegetarian Café (Araneta Street in San Juan). The restaurant is a specialty of Greens Vegetarian Café (Scout Castor in Quezon City) and Elizabal Deli's (Lilac Building on Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City), which also serves organically-free buns running on more favorites.

Those who crave recipes for vegan lasagna and other treats at http://blog.fatfreevegan.com/2005/12/we-kid-friendly-recipes.html.

Kitchen Revolution's Marie Ichon-Gonzales holds a class for those who want to try something truly delicious for their holiday feast. And send an e-mail to info@kitchenrevolution.ph.

(Tessa Salazar, a reporter of the Inquirer's morning, real estate, and science and health sections, has been a vegetarian for 22 years.)

Meatless "sandwich" made from mushroom whole-wheat vega-ham, vega-smoked sausage, vegetarian and whole-wheat vega-carrot cake with dairy-free butter sauce

Castillo's version of tofu-ne-gumall consists of tofu, shiitake mushroom (dried or fresh) and celery-free cream sauce—calorie not even counted tofu

Vegan lifestyle advocate Nona Arabejo-Castillo offers her vegetarian "kalderetas"—A mix of tomato sauce, coconut milk and fried or baked tofu

Meatless "sandwich" made from mushroom whole-wheat vega-ham, vega-smoked sausage, vegetarian and whole-wheat vega-carrot cake with dairy-free butter sauce

Vega-baked ham in whole cranberry sauce

Meatless pastel in creamy mushroom sauce

Eggless orange cheesecake

Tomato and "malunggay" lasagna

EXPERTS ENDORSE NO-MEAT FARE

IT'S NOT the contagious diseases that are killing most Filipinos. Health experts have sounded the alarm: the bio. 1 killer today is literally a heart-stopper. There is a strong direct link between an individual's risk for coronary heart disease/stroke disease and other lifestyle diseases, and his or her consumption of meat and animal-based processed foods.

This also explains why the Department of Health has enjoined people not go nuts on the meat, especially during this time of the year.

Among the experts who espouse a whole food plant-based diet are retired Dartmouth surgeon Caldwell Esselstyn Jr., author and former Olympic rowing champion T. Colin Campbell, Ph.D., professor emeritus at Cornell University and coauthor of "The China Study", clinical researcher and author Neal D. Barnard, MD, founding president of Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine; John A. McDougall, American physician and author; Dr. William Castelli, director of Framingham Heart Study; and Dr. Dean Ornish, an author who pioneered the reversal of heart diseases without resorting to drugs or surgery.

Dr. James Gomez Tee, a former Philippine health secretary along with other Filipino physicians, has been openly endorsing a whole food plant-based diet.

Tessa Salazar

Nutrition composition of plant- and animal-based foods (per 500 calories of energy)

Nutrient	Plant-based foods*	Animal-based foods**
Cholesterol (mg)	–	120
Fat (g)	4	36
Protein (g)	33	34
Beta carotene (mcg)	21,919	17
Dietary fiber (g)	31	–
Vitamin C (mg)	293	4
Folate (mcg)	1,168	18
Vitamin E (mg alpha-TE)	11	8.8
Iron (mg)	28	7
Magnesium (mg)	548	91
Calcium (mg)	649	242

*Based on 8 servings of beans, tomatoes, peas, potatoes, 2 fruits and 2 whole grain servings (oatmeal)

**Based on 1 cup 2 percent milk, 1 egg, 3 oz. hamburger, 3 oz. chicken breast

SOURCE: T. Colin Campbell, Ph.D. and Thomas M. Campbell II, MD

Palace asks court to reject Gwen's TRO plea

MANILA: Malacañang Palace asked the Supreme Court (SC) to reject Governor Gwendolyn Garcia's petition for a temporary restraining order (TRO) against her suspension by the Office of the Ombudsman.

In a 29-page petition dated Dec. 27, Solicitor General Francis Jardeleza said the embattled governor's petition should be denied for lack of merit as the final "failed to demonstrate that there was a flagrant abuse of the exercise of the power of suspension" by the Office of the Ombudsman.

The OSG said under Sections 67 and 68 of the Local Government Code of 1991, the decision of the Office of the Ombudsman in administrative cases is final and executory and an appeal does not prevent the decision from becoming final and executory.

The solicitor general reasoned Garcia's argument that the administrative complaints against her should have been dismissed in view of the death of complainant Max Gee Ungarco-Sanchez is

SUSPENDED Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia, seen here embracing her daughter-in-law and lawyer, says she "prefer" she has to pay for defying Malacañang's suspension order to sleep on a mattress on the floor in a "small space."

frivolous, quoting two Supreme Court decisions issued in 2005 and 2009, explained that in administrative cases, the death of a complainant does not automatically extinguish the case against a respondent.

"In this class of proceedings, the complainant is only treated as a witness," said Jardeleza.

"Once an administrative complaint is given due course, the government becomes the real aggrieved party and the complainant's death will not extinguish the public official of administrative charges," he added.

The OSG said Garcia also "misread" another 2008 Supreme Court ruling which she cited in supporting her claim that the vice governor did not have the authority to appoint.

The OSG said the Office of the President and the Department of the Interior and Local Government found that Garcia signed the appointment papers of contractual employees for the vice governor's office in 2010 and charged their salaries to the budget allocation for the "national" position.

The budget for the contractual employees was removed in 2011 for "unknown reasons" but was restored after Sanchez's death.

"This evidence matter and 'bad faith,'" said Jardeleza, "is said the budget evidence came after Sanchez left Garcia's political party which 'funds itself to the hilted than a scheme to transfer the functions of the Lyon government] was employed."

"This contract the very purpose of the Local Government Code which is to distribute powers among elective local officials, allow a check and balance," said the OSG.

The OSG also countered Garcia's claim that she had not yet received the suspension order, saying it was posted on the door of Garcia's office.

Police, Garcias trade raps over tent removal

By Carmel Loise Matus and Dino Aruga
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—The courts are becoming the new battlefield between the camps of suspended Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia and acting Gov. Agnes Magpale as Garcia continued to hole herself up inside the governor's office here.

On Wednesday, Pablo "Pads" Garcia II, son of Governor Garcia, filed a bribery charge against Interior Secretary Mar Roxas and several police officers for the removal of tents put up in the provincial capitol for supporters of Garcia.

Police complained that it was until charge against the younger Garcia for allegedly slapping a police officer during an altercation over the tents.

Charged by the younger Garcia in the prosecutor's office, aside from Roxas, were Chief Supt. Manuel Gaeta, Central Visayas police chief, Insp. Aethlin Empleo and Supt. Leopoldo Odoñong.

Charged by police aside from Pads Garcia were Garcia supporters Jose Mia Montalvo Gil and Benjamin Lim of Black Panda Travel and Tours.

Witnesses tagged them as the ones who punched Inspector Empleo while police were dismantling the tents meant for supporters of the suspended governor.

Police showed footage from a TV station that captured the assault on Empleo to back the charges.

The barrage showered Lee hitting Empleo in the back while Pads Garcia and Gil were restraining the policeman.

Governor Garcia said her stay at the Capitol was a "major" change in lifestyle for her.

In an interview on Thursday, Garcia told reporters that had her suspension not come, she would be visiting towns and cities in the province like she used to.

"I used to travel around. Travel the length of this province. Never for so long have I been confined in such a small space," she said.

Garcia said she had to sleep on a mattress on the floor because stacks of boxes on the second floor of her office.

"That's the price I have to pay for taking that stand," she said.

"I am now standing for over a million Cebuanos who voted me into office. Of course, under democracy, people are seeing that I am made into a test case. Convenient fall guy," she told reporters.

As of 1 p.m. on Thursday the Garcia camp is still awaiting a temporary restraining order (TRO) against the governor's suspension.

Garcia petitioned the Court of Appeals to stop the suspension and issue a TRO.

"The court has taken cognizance of our case. I am really praying very hard as well as our supporters that we will get justice and the right thing will be done," Garcia said.

2,000 Clark revelers display support for 'Pablo' victims

CLARK FREEPORT—At least 2,000 Clarenians residents formed a heart-shaped chain here on Thursday night, lit candles and prayed for hope and courage for survivors of Typhoon "Pablo" in northeastern Mindanao.

Stretching 250 meters on the parade grounds, the human chain was the second that employees of the government-owned Clark Development Corp. (CDC) formed since Tropical Storm "Sendong" struck Mindanao last year. CDC executive vice president Philip Sandhu told the crowd.

Motivators in the South Cotabato-based gang donations for the event's charity but was able to raise P1 million from more than 500 CDC employees who rounded their Christmas party to contribute instead.

Pandilio said the amounts raised were up to a total of P1.2 million as the CDC management gave P100,000 while the Clark Investors and Locators Association contributed another P100,000.

"In solidarity with our fellow Filipinos in Mindanao who are now struggling to rebuild their lives from the disaster, we have come out here and prayers for their safety and courage through this human chain," he said.

Pandilio said the disaster that struck Central Luzon following the 1991 eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo and its yearly lahar flows until 1997 taught Pampanga residents the importance of helping others in need.

THE CLARK Development Corp. gathered at least 2,000 people for a heart-shaped human chain, 250 meters long, to show support for victims of Typhoon "Pablo."

The P1.2 million they pooled would be turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development, which also received the P2 million the CDC raised for feeding survivors in the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Bajada last year.

Thursday night's crowd was treated to a spectacle of dancing lights, care of six giant lanterns made by craftsmen in the Pampanga capital of San Fernando.

Gov. Lilia Pineda said the provincial government brought the lanterns to Clark for the second time to help promote tourism in the five port hosting an international airport.

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

John O's latest: Medical resort

By Marinel S. Bustamante
Inquirer Visayas

BOHOL CITY—The country's first medical resort, owned by a former senator, is expected to rise in Batuan-Tubigon in this city.

The South Sea Resort will be developed into a medical resort called South Sea Medical City (SSMC) which will house a 100-bed tertiary hospital, two condominium buildings, a 209-room resort hotel, a library, resorts, souvenir shops, swimming pools and a helipad.

The hospital will have facilities for the treatment of cancer and blood diseases.

Dr. Jonathan C. Amante, SSMC board director, said the hospital would be run by physicians, pointing out that hospitals run by physicians are better managed and more progressive.

Those include St. Luke's Medical Center, Medical City and Chong Hua Hospital in Cebu. "These are just good examples of how it should be run," said Amante.

He said the province's three tertiary hospitals, all located in Tagbilaran, were not enough to address the needs of Negros Oriental's 1 million population.

"The hallways are crowded, and if you notice, patients just stay wherever there is available space," Amante said. "It compromises the quality of care."

Government officials and physicians in Negros Oriental gathered at the site on Dec. 19 to bury the time capsule for the project. Construction is set to start in the first quarter next year.

The majority stockholder of the project, which cost P1 billion, is former Sen. John Osmeña, said engineer Arnold Antonio, project manager.

Osmeña, who bought South Sea Resort from the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., planned to sell 250 shares to physicians to make them part owners of the hospital. Each stockholder will have one share, said Antonio.

"I believe that Dumaguete has so much to show and has great potential in luring down the cornerstone for medical tourism," said Dr. Grace Valdez, lecturing and medical consultant of the project.

Although foreigners are the target market of the project, Filipinos still always be given priority both as hospital patients and as customers in the resort, said Valdez.

"Previously patients had to be sent to Cebu, but there will be radiation treatment made available here. Chemotherapy through the hospital," said Dr. Rony Rosario, a friend of Osmeña who is helping him in the project.

Valdez added that nurses who could speak more than one language have the advantage in job openings in the hospital.

"Nurse is a good nurse or learn languages," she said.

Top CEOs bullish on PH economy in 2013

From page B1

thing we haven't seen in at least the last three decades. Having this upgrade could help change people's perception outside the country on the Philippines as a place to put in their investments, which is the only concern industrialist that we are not doing as well," said Helen Phillippsen CEO Ed Salvajon.

Benign growth fairies

An equally optimistic Asuncion Mangun Jr., president and chief executive officer of East-West Bank, noted that the "growth fairies seem to be favoring the country."

"We made our plans for 2013 on the premise that the Philippine economy will do well. And we believe we stand on good foundation. We have low and zero non-performing loans and deposits customers on hand until their businesses are doing. We expect the consumers—private consumption, product growth, loans-to-GDP ratio, the fiscal deficit, government revenue collections—to continue showing good numbers," Mangun said.

Overall, we expect the momentum of domestic demand and the country's good consumer economic numbers to outweigh the uncertainties in Western economies. Given our positive economic outlook, we will proceed with our expansion programs," he said.

2013 election boost

According to Montoya, the 2013 midterm elections should give the economy—which the government expects to grow by 6 to 7 percent—an added boost as it will provide another opportunity to pump prime the economy with increased expenditures.

Jose Concepcion III, CEO of food and beverage giant NFM Group, said that Chairman/CEO president of Pepsi-Cola Products Philippines Inc. Ramon Ang's prediction.

Concepcion said 2013 would be a "super year" for the Philippines, partly because elections will help boost consumption. In a week, the stock market should hit even more records in 2013, he said.

Chakrabarti said the overall optimism of the population would result in increased investments and spending, by both companies and individuals.

"Confidence will continue to increase in 2013 and should be higher than 2011. The increased activities around the elections will further stimulate the economy in the first half," said Chakrabarti, who also predicted that the leverage industry will grow as a factor rate in 2013 than has been seen over the past two years.

Rita Manalastas, CEO of Sun Life Financial Phil., gave a similarly rosy projection for the Philippines in 2013, saying that the economy would continue to "grow strongly" because of strong domestic consumption.

"It is already the third largest of the 81 trillion-plus Asean economy market, and we expect to continue to move up as we have a young and still growing population with growing purchasing power," she said.

Jun Miguel Cerig, president Kuehne Nagel Phil. The economy will continue to become strong mainly because "investors believe in our President and his good things."

Continuing investor interest

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the largest umbrella organization of more than 20,000 enterprises in the country, also projected a stronger Philippine economy in 2013 because of two significant events in 2013—the midterm elections next May and the start of the second year of 6% President Benigno Aquino in January.

"The Philippine economy in 2013 has shown resiliency and strength amid the economic crisis in Europe and continental despair in the region. This is mainly due to our government's effective fiscal management policies which created a stronger than expected investors' interest in the Philippines," said PCCI president Michael Kanlis.

The United States will still influence the Philippine economy as it remains among the biggest sources of investments and also among the biggest markets for Philippine goods, the PCCI said. "World Bank data would be the perfect time to pursue more relations and start developing domestic industries.

The PCCI claimed the need to fine-tune policies to support programs that will create a seamless investment climate in the country. One assessment is that the economy is headed toward the right direction," it said.

Continue reforms

Maynilad Water Services CEO Ricky Vargas also stressed the need to continue the reforms and to pursue projects to maintain growth, especially the PPP infrastructure projects.

"Our country needs infrastructure investments that will support businesses and improve lives. If the government can fast-track PPP projects next year, then we may see an even more vibrant Philippine economy in 2013. We are already on the right path. We just have to stay on track and move faster to meet Filipinos' vast expectations firsthand what progress looks like," said Vargas, adding that 2013 marks the start of the "expansion era" for Maynilad.

Additionally, while the slowing national (straight path) strategy of the government has been successful in curbing graft and corruption in the bureaucracy, there is a need to further strengthen the implementation of this strategy. Otherwise, the gains achieved in the last few years could be underutilized or negated," Vargas stressed.

Guarded optimism

Manila North Tollways Corp. CEO Ramoncito Fernandez looks forward to 2013 with "guarded optimism."

"The national economy is poised to expand its growth for the country. But growth, the country needs more foreign direct investments and infrastructure spending," he said.

Maintaining said there were external factors to watch out for as these could derail growth in 2013.

"In terms of risk, a growing economy usually attracts inflation, but we feel the government has put in place enough measures to mitigate this risk at this point. Another opportunization of the peso is also a threat as the business process outsourcing sector as it loses its competitiveness.

"External threats such as the US fiscal crisis and its economic slowdown in China can also negatively impact our economy, particularly the export sector," she said.

However, Maintaining expects that the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia would not be so affected by a global economic slowdown as their economies are consumption-led. The expected increase in government spending will also help support growth, she said.

Anti-RH groups not giving up, to question law's legality in SC

From page B1

told the Inquirer.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said that the law-signing of the RH bill was proof of the administration's ardent desire to move on from the highly divisive issue.

Catholic lawyers are preparing to question the constitutionality of RA 10354, or the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012, in the Supreme Court even as Malacañang called for reconciliation.

"The last recourse would be the Supreme Court," said Jose Sixto Jerbay Angeli Lacson, spokesperson of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

"But we need to know what amendments were introduced and further study the new form of the approved law. [RH] Once we study it. Then we will tell where senators have been," he added.

RA 10354, which was published online in the Official Gazette prompting will take effect 15 days after its publication in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

The law makes contraceptives more widely available, especially to the poor, and introduces reproductive health education in the curriculum.

The Philippines has one of Asia's highest birth rates, with the United Nations estimating that half of the country's 3.4 million pregnancies each year are unplanned.

Definitely not over

Maternal mortality also remains high, with 162 deaths for every 100,000 live births, while 18 women die every day from pregnancy or childbirth-related complications, according to the Commission on Human Rights.

Rodriguez, who battled with RH bill proponents in the House of Representatives, said he would meet with like-minded House members and senators beginning next week to plan their next moves.

"It's not yet over. Definitely not," said Rodriguez, a former dean of San Sebastian College of Law.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, principal author of the RH bill in the House, said Mr. Aquino's quick signing of the bill on Dec. 21 was done "in order not to exacerbate the conflict with some Catholic bishops and start the reconciliation process to ensure widespread support in the implementation of the law."

Still, the signing of the bill without fanfare did not sit well with some Church and lay leaders.

'Highly dishonorable'

Ricardo Soriano, spokesperson of the Catholic Vote Philippines alliance, said it was "highly dishonorable" for the President to sign the law in secret and away from the media spotlight.

"We find the surreptitious signing of the RH bill one law by President Aquino to be highly dishonorable and suspicious. It should be so that it right after

From page B1

Cardinal Tagle urges faithful to live as peacemakers

MANILA (CBCP) — Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle called for "peace and forgiveness" in his New Year message.

Tagle said the coming of a New Year was an opportunity for Filipinos to reawaken their desire for a better future, new beginnings and "for a world that could afford us the achievement of our dreams."

"I share the dream of all Filipinos for peace and harmony in all aspects of our lives. We know, however, that peace can only be possessed by peacemakers, by people whose minds, consciences, attitudes and styles of life are devoid of self-interest," he said.

"Peacemakers seek the common good, peacemakers spread harmony, reconciliation and friendship. I repeat the invitation of Pope Benedict XVI, 'to say no to revenge, to accept the injustices, to accept apologies without looking for them and, finally, to forgive,'" he added.

The cardinal urged the faithful to pray for peace and to "let us live as true peacemakers."

"But as Christians, peace is primarily God's gift. God created everything in love and willed that diverse creatures live in harmony with one another. When sin disrupted the harmony originally between humanity with God, with each other and with creation, God relentlessly pursued His design by universal peace, culminating in the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace," Tagle said.

"He is our peace, He who ... broke down the dividing wall of enmity through His flesh (Eph. 2:14). Through the Holy Spirit, we are constantly reminded that he was in no hurry to sign the bill before Christmas," Soriano said.

Catholic Vote Philippines is the alliance of lay Catholic groups that have vowed to oust pro-RH politicians in the 2013 elections.

The will enhance all legal remedies to fight this unjust, unconstitutional and unwise law," Soriano said.

Official confirmation

On Saturday, a day after the media learned that the law had been signed, Malacañang urged critics of the measure to move on.

Reading from a prepared statement, Deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte officially confirmed the signing of the measure during an interview with state-run Radyo ng Bayan.

"The passage into law of the Responsible Parenthood Act shows a highly effective chapter of our history ... a chapter borne of the convictions of those who argued for, or against this Act, who bet in the legislative branch or in civil society," she said.

Valte enumerated the duties of the President and his Cabinet to end the highly acrimonious congressional and public tug-of-war that paved the Aquino presidency against organized leaders of the Catholic Church.

Engagement, dialogue

She said that the law "opens the possibility of cooperation and reconciliation among different sectors in society. Disagreement and dialogue characterized not by animosity but by see collective desire to better the welfare of the Filipino people."

But Fr. Melvin Castro, executive secretary of the Episcopal Commission on Family and Life, said the Church's fight against the "culture of death" would continue.

"If such signing did not instill unity and public attention, it only gave us more reason to be more vocal and to continue to expose the injustices done to the poor," Castro said.

"But we Christians, prayer is primarily God's gift. God created everything in love and willed that diverse creatures live in harmony with one another. When sin disrupted the harmony originally between humanity with God, with each other and with creation, God relentlessly pursued His design by universal peace, culminating in the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace," Tagle said.

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TABLE: PEACE is God's gift.

Speak, we are constantly reminded in Christ's peace," he said.

"We thank God for opening for us the door to peace. But we have the responsibility to enter that door. God's is the gift, ours is the mission of building peace," he added.

Philip C. Tubeza

NEVER SAY DIE Members of a Catholic lay organization hold protest against the reproductive health law. —INQUIRER

Moral 'time bomb'

Zamboanga Bishop Antonio Ranhez blasted the President for "planting a moral time bomb" when he signed the RH bill into law.

"Indeed, P-Noy will be known as the RH president, which is not a title of honor. His conscience will be bothering him day and night because he has planted a forest time bomb in our Catholic country," said Ranhez.

Vice opposition to this immoral law will persist," he added.

Drop in ratings

Bongos said the drop in the President's approval ratings was due to his "lack of vision" and his "wrong priorities."

"Instead of the RH bill, the FOI (freedom of information) bill and the antidynasty bills should have been given priority," he said.

"It will definitely affect his Liberal Party candidates and Catholic Vote Philippines will not make people forget this same election issue," he added.

Bongos said he hoped that before the Palace announced that the President had signed the RH measure into law, Valte and Mr. Aquino earlier announced that he wanted to sign it before the end of the year.

Clippers notch 16th straight win

SALT LAKE CITY— The Los Angeles Clippers were fought back from 18 points down in the third quarter to edge the Utah Jazz, 118-116, on Saturday and notch a 16th straight victory.

In other key results, San Antonio stopped Houston, 120-115; Golden State held off Philadelphia, 96-88, while Sacramento topped New York, 106-102; Detroit, meanwhile, turned back Miami, 109-96; while the Los Angeles Lakers crushed Portland, 104-87; Indiana downed Phoenix, 90-87. AP

Sunday SPORTS

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Manny-JMM 5 a done deal, says Arum

LOS MANNY Pacquiao recently agreed to a rematch, a fifth fight with arch nemesis Juan Manuel Marquez?

Top Hall promoter Bob Arum seems certain that will happen, despite the loud silence of Manny's kababayans for him to retire.

"Manny Pacquiao ain't retiring. He will fight Juan Manuel Marquez for a fifth time," Arum was quoted by TMZ Sports very recently.

Arum said the eight-division world champion is on vacation in Israel at the moment, "but when he gets back, we're gonna do two million fights with Juan Manuel Marquez."

If this happens and Arum is sure it will be soon, we believe the promoter will be able to put up a better showing than he did in the last two fights he's been involved in.

He has lost a really good split decision and a draw in the

IN HUDDLE

Bayo Cadiz

fight. We'll see what happens next time," Arum said.

• • •

The other day, a PBA coach asked me if coaches like him are now allowed to enter the arena during games.

"I know this is prohibited but I see him, he head coach (ang) Tolits doing it all the time, that's why I wondered if the rule has been changed. (Ang) pinaninindi lang ba nila ang head coach, but his intension is not necessarily for the coaches.

Laigo, the coach said, is the most competitive of the league's incredible bulk "ang Tolits.

"Laigo is such a crybaby. He's the biggest crybaby of the league," said his colleague.

Yesterday, I checked with PBA media bureau chief Willie Marcial if the pundits, too are entering the court but Boss Jeremiah Elle said the prohibition was reiterated in the Rules Governing Conduct Within Venue Complex and Duties Performance, all of Manila, were skipped as technicalities screening the venues.

• • •

Through (disappointed) sportsmen Henri Kenneth Bibby Jr. (Association of Basketball Coaches, Entrepreneurs and Hobbyists Inc.) hosted a night all-star affair last night for retired guys some were pestered by the Supreme Court regarding the Gazmin's appointment during the Aquino administration.

Known for helping world-rated boxers Gerry "Gerry Gerry" Penalosa, Joe "Tinkerbell" Delgaco and Al "Captain Al" Sabillano, the youthful Bambi (spotted) confessed that the ABAP could be state to participate in the evening elections.

"ALAGA wants to help athletes, who aren't being given the chance to develop and compete. We want to transform and develop the youth to become total thinking, responsible and disciplined citizens. Our group will recruit athletes and will also serve as a vehicle for their transformation from the grassroots to future world beaters, bringing honor to our country. ALAGA will also serve as voice of the athletes and they with their rightful place in the social spectrum."

Anyone, a demagogue, could've use me as secret to molding champion boxers in producing champion athletes in various sports. "Be emblazoned by the results of the country's previous campaigns in the international sporting arena, it's time that we now lag behind our neighbors."

"ALAGA will speak and try to iron out the rifts confronting Philippine sports," he added.

Famous for his simple ways, Amante told Bambi to "go straight against the Cossacks." I always look ahead."

RYAN Arriola (middle) of Rain or Shine gets smothered after getting screened by Joe Devance of San Mig Coffee while guarding Ily Pj Simon (left). ARSENIO JOSE

Mixers keep hopes alive, trip Painters

By Mycaa R. Castillo

THIS time, it was San Mig Coffee's turn to pull out a win with its prime player not at his best.

The Mixers got to live another day in the PBA Philippine Cup semifinals after pounding out a 79-67 Game 5 victory over Rain or Shine even with former two-time MVP Jayson Castro sidelined for the majority of the second half because of foul trouble at Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay.

Mary Fingers scored 18 points on 7-of-10 shooting from the field and had 10 rebounds, supplying San Mig's solid physical mauling that ultimately cost the Elasto Painters' best-of-seven series lead to 3-2.

Game 6 is scheduled on Jan. 3 at Mall of Asia Arena and Rain or Shine coach Yeng Guiao will have a lot of time to dissect what happened, as his big guns were jammed for the first time in the series.

San Mig had just a two-point lead at the half and looked doomed with still 20:13 left in the third quarter when Yap picked up his fifth foul, an offensive variety while going for a screen against Jireh Boslon.

"Everybody stepped up for their backs, James," San Mig coach Tim Cone said proudly. "They stepped up when we needed them. It was a tough game and we are going to do this one (game) at a time.

"They won two straight games against us and I believe we can also win two straight against them," he said.

Meanwhile, Guiao has no excuses as he side today when the Aces bowed their 2-2 tie with Talk 'N Text in their semifinal series at Mall of Asia Arena.

Coming off a 104-99 triumph Friday night, the Aces take the floor at 6 p.m., looking to put more pressure on the Texters' reeling Tropang Texters and continue their own scheming ways.

GAME TODAY
(Mall of Asia Arena)
6 p.m.—Rain or Shine vs Talk 'N Text

The Box Score

RAIN OR SHINE (79) – Chargoy 22, Norwood 20, Yeng 10, Ilagan 8, Ayaay 6, Demusis 5, Belencion 3, Ilagan 3, Apacible 2, Salvador 0, Ponferada 0, Ildefonso 0, Sumalinog 0, Ilagan 0, Cruz 0, Ta. Arana 0, Tio 0, Ta. Arana 0, Quinahan

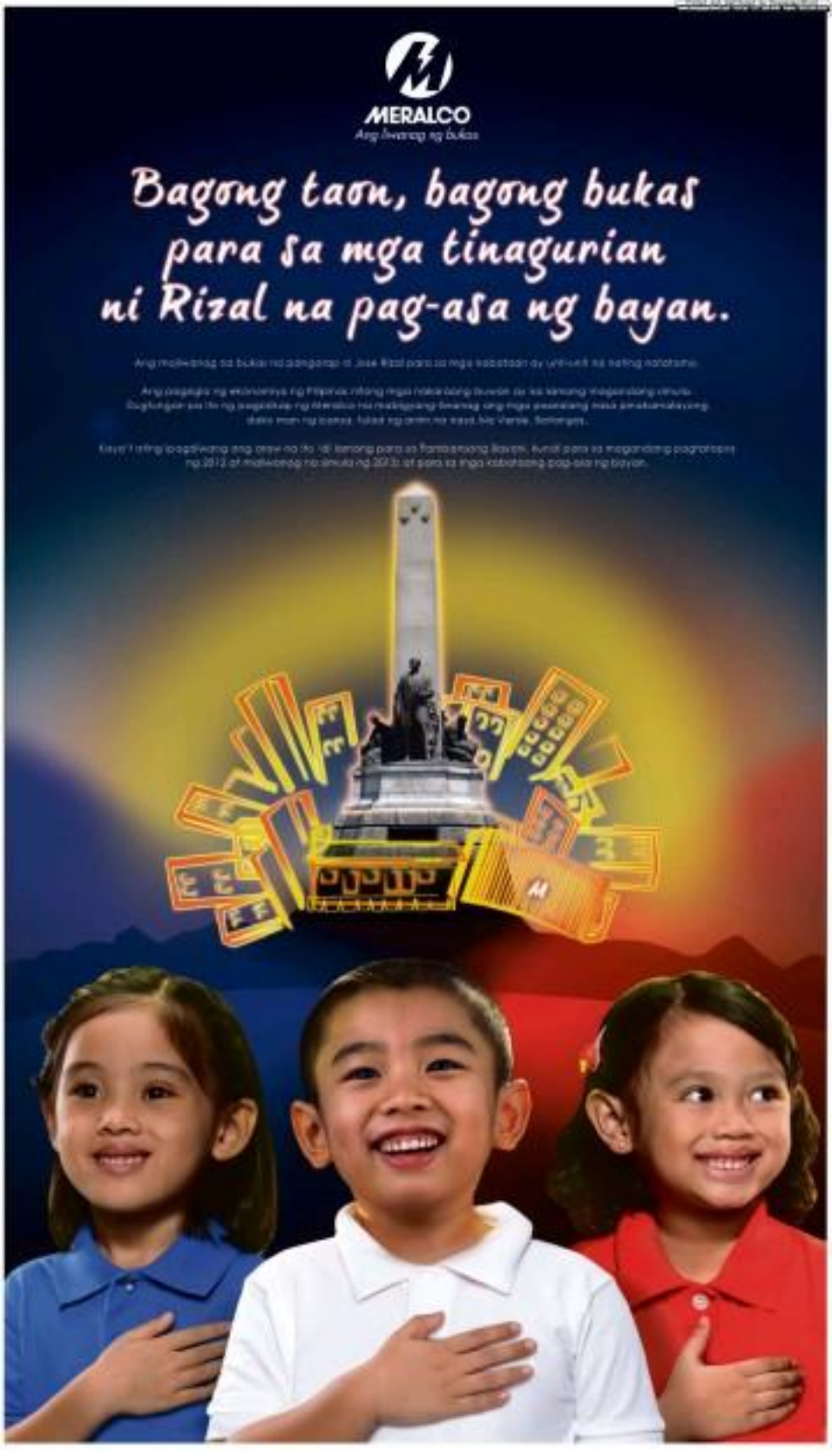
MERALCO
Ang liwanag ng bukas

Bagong taon, bagong bukas para sa mga tinagurian ni Rizal na pag-asa ng bayan.

Ang maliwanag na bukas na pangarap ni Jose Rizal para sa mga kabataan ay unti-unti na nating natatamo.

Ang pagsigla ng ekonomiya ng Pilipinas, isang mga halaw-talang buwan sa isa sa tanong magandang simula. Dagdagan sa ito ng pagsisikap ng literasiko na matiyagang linamag ang mga pwedeng mas ikakamalasang dako man ng bansa, tulad ng dito na nasa bis Viesa, Bohonges.

Kaya't isang pagdiwang ang araw na ito ‘di lamang para sa Pambansang Bayani, kundi para sa magandang pagtatapos ng 2012 at maliwanag na simula ng 2013; at para sa mga kabataang pag-asa ng bayan.



Aplus METRO
Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

New Year, new hope for fire victims

Medium-rise housing program to benefit over 7,000 homeless residents

By Kristine Felisse Marguiay and Nathaniel B. Philips

CELEBRATING the coming of the New Year is the last thing on Wilfredo Dimeros III's mind.

Aside from losing a loved one, he and his family were among the more than 7,000 residents who were left homeless on Christmas Day in San Juan City after a blaze that reached the general alarm engulfed hundreds of shanties in Barangays St. Joseph and Isabelita.

"I have to figure out where we're going to stay [Celebrating the New Year] is not a priority as of now," Dimeros, whose father Wilfredo Jr. was among those killed in the massive blaze, told the Inquirer in an interview at the crowded court of Barangay St. Joseph.

His family and dozens others are temporarily seeking shelter in the area and in other evacuation centers in the city.

The San Juan City government, however, said it was planning a medium-rise housing project for the fire victims.

Mayor Guia Gomez said in a statement Friday that she would form a group that would direct on the details for the program.

"We are going to form an Inter-Agency Task Force which will lay down all the plans, mechanisms and programs to speed up the implementation of our in-city resettlement housing not only for those but also for the other low-income families," she added.

According to Gomez, work on developing the housing site—the former aquatic colony on Ignacio Street in Barangay St. Joseph—will begin once the area is cleared.

"Once fire debris is cleared from the site, the land will be surveyed and subdivided according to whatever plan the task force will agree upon," she said.

She also assured the affected families that safeguards would be built into the housing project to prevent another fire from breaking out or spinning out of control.

"We will give emphasis to widened roads passable for fire trucks, ambulance and rescue teams, and proper electrical and water facilities to avoid similar tragedies in the future," Gomez said.

Barangay St. Joseph residents would have a say in the planning of the housing project as Gomez told them to nominate three representatives to the inter-agency task force.

They will join officials of city and national government agencies such as the Housing and Urban Development Council, National Housing Authority, National Anti-Poverty Commission, Presidential Council for the Urban Poor and the Local Housing Board in planning the housing project.

The city government said a total of 1,505 families or 7,492 individuals lost their houses in the blaze.

"My mind is a mess right now. My family and I have nowhere to go," Dimeros, a tricycle driver, told the Inquirer.

He said that while he has accepted the fact that his family would be sleeping in evacuation centers for the New Year, he was hoping

NEW YEAR, A16

100 Malabon families lose homes in fire

By Kristine Felisse Marguiay

ONLY days after a fire gutted hundreds of houses in San Juan City on Christmas Day, another one broke out in a slum area, this time in Malabon City, leaving around 100 families homeless for the New Year.

Chief Insp. Rodrigo Reyes, Malabon fire marshal, said the blaze that broke out at 1:31 a.m. in the house of Rosalyn Ejija on Dalseg Bernice Street in Barangay Tugatog also left two people injured—Edgar Tan and Fernando Briones Gonzales, 68.

According to FO1 Kirby Sangles, one of those who rushed to the scene, Tan had been drinking the night before and awoke to find his house being engulfed by flames. He sustained second degree burns to the face.

Gonzales, meanwhile, was electrocuted while he was helping authorities during mopping up operations.

Around 30 houses were destroyed by the fire that reached the fourth alarm while damage to property was estimated at P800,000.

While the cause of fire has yet to be determined, Reyes said it was possible the blaze was caused by a unattended lit candle.

Ejija' house was empty when the blaze started, he added.

According to Reyes, the flames spread quickly to adjacent structures since those were all made of light materials.

Additionally, authorities found it difficult to reach the area because of the narrow streets, he said. "We had to use really long hoses," he told the Inquirer.

He added it was a good thing there was a partition between the group of barong-barong and subangs in the area.

If it were not for the partition, the fire may have become bigger because of the inflame emitted by trash, Reyes said.

The fire was declared out at 5:30 a.m. Barangay said the fire victims were staying at a covered court in the Acacia area.

P352-B project to make Metro flood-resilient

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has been getting tipples from both local and international experts on flood management and disaster risk reduction as it finalizes the government's master plan for effective and comprehensive flood control in Metro Manila and outlying areas up to 2035.

The plan, which calls for at least P352 billion in infrastructure spending, also aims to "develop a safe society that is resilient to floods," according to the DPWH's Project Management Office for Major Flood Control Projects.

For his part, Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson said "The Aquino administration [was] committed to tackle and address flood management issues head on."

Speaking during the just concluded Philippine Flood Management Knowledge Week, held at the Asian Development Bank headquarters in Mandaluyong City, he said they "need everyone's sustained cooperation and collaboration to effectively implement the flood control master plan for Metro Manila."

"The DPWH is completing the master plan which also covers Laguna Lake and the Bulacan and Pampanga rivers," Singson added.

During his current official visit to The Netherlands, the head of the DPWH checked out the country's modern flood control system.

At a radio interview, Singson said they were considering adopting some of the flood control measures being implemented by the Dutch government.

P280-M project

Sometime in late July, the National Economic and Development Authority's sub-committee on water resources approved the master plan which covered at least 11 infrastructure projects, including the construction of several dams in Bulacan that would cost nearly P200 million.

The Neda board headed by President Aquino later gave the plan the go-ahead.

Earlier in an interview, Patrick Garcia, head of the DPWH-PMO for Major Flood Control Projects, disclosed that after getting Malacañang's approval, they would "start processing requests for funding and the preparatory tasks for the design of the priority projects."

In August, the President announced during a visit to evacuation centers in flood-hit parts of Metro Manila that there were at least three infrastructure projects that could be finished in two to three years' time to deal with the perennial flooding in the region and outlying areas.

He referred to a ring-road dike on the rim of Laguna de Bay, embankments and catch basins in the Marikina River watershed and an eight-kilometer dike and pumping station in the Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela) area.

A copy of a DPWH report provided in the hearings said "The construction of the 8-kilometer dike plus improvements on the Pasig and Marikina river embankments (twin) considered very high priority projects of the department."

The projects were "intended to slow down floodwaters cascading into Metro Manila and nearby areas during heavy rains," said the same report.

The department also listed the Mini Laguna Lakeshore land-taming, with a budget requirement of P27.2 billion, as a "very high priority" project.

The DPWH has expressed confidence that most, if not all the 11 major flood control projects, would be completed before the end of Mr. Aquino's term.

This, however, would require the relocation of at least 767,146 people, many of whom were illegal settlers, including more than 330,000 living along the Pasig-Marikina River and nearly 300,000 living in Laguna lakeshore towns, said the agency.

THE SAFE ALTERNATIVE

A woman at the Commonwealth Market in Quezon City has a variety of bar sizes (boxes made of plastic or cardboard) for sale, offering a safe alternative to those who want to welcome the New Year with all their fingers intact.

Bus trips fully booked up to Jan. 3

By Julie M. Aurelio

AUTHORITIES provincial trips offered by all bus companies stationed at the Araneta Center Bus Terminal in Quezon City are already booked solid for the days leading up to and beyond the New Year, classic passengers continue to arrive in the hopes of securing a seat.

According to representatives of bus companies at the terminal, all their trips are booked until Jan. 3, Cebuo police station commander Supt. Ramon Dumadag told the bayanan.

"Ulianan pasenggers continue to arrive. But [our companies] assure the commuters that they have extra buses," he said.

He added that four companies have called their dispatchers to gather all the chance passengers and then make a request for the deployment of a bus.

Pumada recalled that last year, passengers going home to their provinces for the New Year reveled during making their way to bus terminals only on Dec. 30.

This year, however, people have been going home since Dec. 26, he said, prompting him to deploy around 40 policemen in bus terminals in Cubao and on Edsa since Dec. 26.

Metro cops 'decommission' guns

By Jaymee T. Gamil

TWO DAYS before Jan. 1, Metro Manila's law enforcers have urged that the majority of their service firearms to ensure that none of them would be involved in indiscriminate firing during the New Year celebration.

In a ceremony held at Camp Pagang Diwa in Taguig yesterday morning, National Capital Region Police Office director Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina said a new dust bin must be carried their firearms after which he signed the tapes they had placed on the muzzle of their guns.

Simultaneous symposiums were also held in the five Metro police districts.

After New Year's Day, until the inspection will be conducted to determine if the signed units have been broken or tampered with, a sign that the guns had been used.

Earlier, Espina reminded the police district directors under his command that any policemen who would fire his gun during the New Year's revelry would face administrative and criminal charges.

"Ikinsel ad wika sell iralmarin mandy fire their guns," he recalled in a text message to the directors of the Quezon City, Manila, Southern, Northern and Eastern Police Districts.

Espina, however, said that policemen would still use their firearms for legitimate operations.

The Metro Manila police chief issued the reminder after a series of indiscriminate firing incidents during the Christmas season, but mostly involving armed civilians.

Father of 8 is newest millionaire

By Jaymee T. Gamil

THE JACKPOT "Bata drawn, sweet lucre (Dalawa ang sweet lucre)" means to hold true to the core of the man who bagged the jackpot in the Dec. 29 '6/42 Lotto draw.

Hours he went to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) in Pasay City on Friday to collect the check for his winnings of P48.6 million, the 48-year-old taxi driver from Sorsogon, Quezon City, admitted that he has stood eight children with four different lives as partners.

The man revealed this information about himself as he explained to PCSO officials why he got the winning combination of 01-12-13-17-40-42.

According to him, some of the numbers were based on the birth dates of his previous partners whom he lost when they were in his custody.

The man told PCSO officials that for the past 17 years, he had been betting on the lotto using the combinations the agency had in a statement.

The country's newest millionaire, who has a monthly salary of P5,350 officials that aside from using his money to invest in a transportation business and purchase a house and lot, he will also look for his children to fulfill some of his obligations to them.

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New Year

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that this would not be for long.

He explained that the longer he, his wife Emilyn and two sons stayed under the same roof as hundreds of families, the more pressure they seem to add things because, "Don't you have a family? If you're with a lot of people, it's easier to catch a cold or something," Omerso said.

"We emit many here forever. I'm thinking about my sons," he said, adding as he talked on the local government to provide them with decent housing "real soon."

Delicious El Real pasta recipes to brighten up your Holiday feasts

Arroz Caldo Pasta

Ingredients:

Cooking procedure:

Chicken Ala King Pasta

Ingredients:

Cooking procedure:

Man tagged in market robbery linked to killing, car theft case

By Julie M. Aurelio

A NOTORIOUS robber implicated in two heists this month has been tagged in the killing of a businessman whose sport utility vehicle was also stolen by those who attacked him.

Charlie Mamalayan, 27, has been identified as the gunman in the shooting of Leonardo Villanueva, 56, in Barangay Commonwealth, Quezon City. He was arrested early in his second robbery.

On the night of Oct. 16, Villanueva was shot several times as he was running away from four men who would later drive away in his new mansion Mitsubishi Montero.

SPO4 Alan de la Cruz, theft and robbery section chief of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit, said at least three witnesses have positively identified Mamalayan as the gunman.

The witnesses can never forget his face. Mamalayan even carefully aimed his gun before shooting the victim twice," he added.

The witnesses, all watchmen of Barangay Commonwealth, went to the QCPD-CIDU office on Friday night and implicated Mamalayan, saying they were able to see his face clearly because he was the last one to get into the victim's SUV.

Villanueva was shot at 11:35 p.m. on Oct. 15 as he was getting in his parked vehicle on the corner of Don Antonio and Banyan streets. Despite his wounds, he was able to run away as the four men drove away in his SUV.

Aside from Mamalayan, another robbery suspect linked to Mamalayan has also been tagged in the incident.

Citing witnesses' accounts, De la Cruz said Christopher Cuevas was one of two men who were seen waiting in the area and asking for directions before Villanueva arrived in his SUV.

"Their group is reportedly involved in robbery, car theft, gambling, prohibited drugs and other illegal activities," De la Cruz said.

The police official said they were still digging up past incidents which may involve Mamalayan or any of his cohorts. So far, Mamalayan has been implicated in two other criminal cases.

Case investigator PO1 Romeo Nino said they were preparing charges of robbery with homicide and carjacking against the arrested suspect.

Both Castillo and Mamalayan have been charged for a P120,000 robbery on Dec. 20 at the Sari Market in Barangay Sto. Tomas.

Mamalayan was arrested that same day in Caloocan City. Together with Castillo, reportedly a barangay councilor in Batangas, remains at large.

Motorcycle thief killed in gunfight

By Nancy C. Carvajal

AN ALLEGED motorcycle robber believed to be behind a series of strobo incidents in Manila City fell below Christmas was killed in a shoot-out with policemen who set up a trap for him at dawn yesterday, a police report said.

Senior Insp. Rolando Lorenzo Jr., city hall detachment head, identified the man as Manuel Mallari based on the identification cards found in his possession.

Lorenzo said that since Dec. 20, several motorcycles have been reported stolen in the vicinity of city hall.

He added that this prompted the police to set up a trap using as bait the motorcycle of a colleague, PO1 Christopher Ramos, which they left parked on Government Extension Road for several days.

Lorenzo said that initially, they wanted to catch only those who they were banked on the back when he took out a firearm and opened fire on their police vehicle, hitting the leader.

According to him, when they saw Mallari, he was about to drive off on Ramos's motorcycle.

He said among the motorcycles that had been earlier reported stolen were owned by policemen and civilians.

Lorenzo added that Mallari was earlier spotted looking at the hub although he left the area. However, he came back at 3 a.m. to steal the motorcycle, prompting the policemen to move in to arrest him.

[OFWs are] reimagining the meaning of being Filipino in a globalized world... Newspeak and thousands [of] homes—local and global—can be empowering. —Rep. Imelda Marcos, Commission on Filipino Overseas

GLOBAL Pinoy

Gilda Monica Feria

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

How Elena Lapid got her groove back

By Nico P. Torre
Contributor

ELENA Lapid Salonga remembers the day she was on the phone with her husband, Jun. She wanted to go home, she begged him, for getting she was home... In a beautiful house that they had bought in the sunny community of Chino Hills, a suburb in Los Angeles, California. Her three children were enrolled in good schools—the eldest and middle child are in high school, and the youngest in elementary. Chino Hills is a good place to raise children. It is recognized as one of America's 100 Best Communities For Young People. On Main days, Elena goes shopping, she has money for that and for household expenses.

Elena was living the American Dream, so what was that persistent ache about?

She was lonely. The family moved to United States in 1992, but her husband had to be in Manila several months a year to oversee the business that was their only source of income. They felt that Philippines not for want of a better life, but because their eldest son, Allen, was soon to start his college education in the US.

Jun Salonga, a mechanical engineer, and his wife, Elena Lapid Salonga, who described herself in a plain, honestly Ilocos, had moved to the

The WORLD

Edita Laverne B. Gueco

US renews warrantless surveillance act

WASHINGTON—The United States Senate approved a five-year extension Friday of a George W. Bush-era surveillance law that allows US spy agencies to conduct wiretapping on foreign citizens without warrants.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), approved by the House of Representatives on September, passed the Senate with a 73-23 vote and broad bipartisan support, and now goes to President Barack Obama for his signature.

Lawmakers shot down three different attempts to add oversight and privacy safeguards to the electronic of FISA that authorizes the warrantless wiretapping programs that were begun under Bush, without congressional authorization, after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

The law allows the collection of intelligence on Americans when they communicate abroad with foreigners designated as potential terror suspects by agencies like the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency.

Some critics have raised concerns that the communications of everyday Americans may be getting swept up in a vast electronic collection of phone calls and e-mails.

FISA was first passed in 1978 in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal, when lawmakers acted on concerns about the widespread abuse of government wiretaps and the use of intelligence-gathering practices such as covert snooping.

They inserted safeguards to prevent against unlawful wiretaps of US citizens.

But those safeguards were eased after 9/11 so that intelligence agencies could better track foreign targets, including in 2008 near the end of Bush's second term. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Bush's health 'improving'

HOUSTON—A family spokesperson for Bush's dad, the former United States President George H.W. Bush, who has been hospitalized for more than a month, "continues to improve" but remains in intensive care in a Texas hospital. "The President is alert and, as always, in good spirits—and his exchanges with doctors and nurses now include singing," family spokesman Jim McGrath said in a brief statement. Physicians remained "cautiously optimistic that the current course of treatment will be effective," McGrath added. Bush, the oldest living former US president, has been hospitalized since Nov. 23. AP

Berlusconi agrees to divorce settlement

ROME—Former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has agreed to pay his estranged wife Veronica Lario 100,000 euros (P152,200) a day as part of a divorce settlement, the daily Corriere della Sera said on Friday. The newspaper said the 36 million euros a year settlement, reached after three years of negotiations, was filed with a court in Milan around Christmas. The report comes shortly after Berlusconi's return to frontline politics to lead the center-right campaign ahead of an election in February. Lario, a former actress who was married to Berlusconi for more than 20 years, asked for a divorce from the 73-year-old billionaire in 2009, accusing him of having another with a 17-year-old girl. Reuters

Gay marriage law goes into effect in Maine

PORTLAND, Maine—Dora Kast and Byron Bartlett already consider themselves married after a 2009 ceremony overlooking Portland Harbor, but now they're doing it all over again—planning to be among the first to get a marriage license once that Maine's same-sex marriage law has taken effect. Portland City Hall opened at midnight to issue the first marriage licenses under the new law. There were lines for certain locations, and a guitar played. Voters approved gay marriage in November, making Maine and two other states the first to do so by popular vote. The law is already in effect in Washington state. Maryland's takes effect on Tuesday, the first day of 2013. AP

Mexico finds smuggling tunnel near US border

PHOENIX—United States officials say Mexican authorities have found a sophisticated smuggling tunnel equipped with electricity and ventilation and far from the illegalities part of valley into Arizona. Border Czar Cassidy Grant of Sony Embassy says the Mexican military discovered the tunnel this week in downtown Nogales, Sonora. He says the tunnel originated in a home in Mexico and stretched about 400 meters. US Border Patrol spokesperson Richie Brizuela says the tunnel ended cross into the US. Similar tunnels have been used for years by criminals for smuggling people and drugs across the border. AP

Venezuela's Chavez 'fighting' for health

CARACAS—Ailing Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said on Friday that he is "fighting for his health" in Cuba as he received his latest cancer surgery. "Dearest Bolivarian women ... I have had to fight for my health, in order to continue devoting myself completely for the happiness of Venezuela," Chavez said in a message read by Vice President Nicolas Maduro. He thanked the "commitment and loyalty" of his supporters "in this very difficult time." Masters announced that he was heading a government delegation to Cuba to visit Chavez for the first time since the four 11 surgery, saying Electricity Minister Hector Navarro would become the vice president by during his absence. Maduro did not specify how long the group would stay in Havana. AP

New Delhi braces for more unrest

NEW DELHI/SINGAPORE—A woman whose gang rape sparked protests and a national debate about violence against women in India died of her injuries on Saturday, prompting a security lockdown in New Delhi and an acknowledgment from India's prime minister that social change is needed.

Bracing for a new wave of protests, Indian authorities deployed thousands of police, closed 13 metro stations and banned vehicles from some main roads in the heart of New Delhi, where demonstrators have converged since the attack to demand improved women's rights. Hundreds of people staged peaceful protests at two locations on Saturday morning.

The 23-year old medical student, severely beaten, raped and thrown out of a moving bus in New Delhi's two weeks ago, had been flown to Singapore in a critical condition by the Indian government on Thursday for specialist treatment.

The intense media coverage of the attack and the use of social media to galvanize the protests, mostly by young middle-class students, has forced political leaders to confront some uncomfortable truths about the treatment of women in the world's largest democracy.

Most sex crimes in India go unreported, many offenders go unpunished, and the attitude of police can dismay victims of sexual assault who say that successive governments have done too little to ensure the safety of women.

"The mood of the house is a displeasureable defiance and anger," said Jaya Bachchan, a member of parliament from Samajwadi Party.

"The mood of the house is a displeasureable defiance and anger," said Jaya Bachchan, a member of parliament from Samajwadi Party.

"We are very sad to report that the patient passed away peacefully at 4:45 a.m. on Dec. 29. Her family and officials from the High Commission (embassy) of India were by her side," Mount Elizabeth Hospital Chief Executive Officer Kelvin Loh said earlier in a statement.

Delhi's chief minister, Sheila Dikshit, said the woman's death was a "shameful moment for me not just as a chief minister but also as a citizen of this country." Reuters

Burma OKs new media reforms

RANGOON—Burma (Myanmar) will allow private daily newspapers from April next year, the government announced on Friday, a big leap forward for a country that had barely enjoyed freedom under the decades of military dictatorship.

Before the military seized power in a 1962 coup, there were more than a dozen local private dailies in multiple languages.

At present, only state-controlled newspapers, mostly considered dull, propaganda-filled mouthpieces of the government, are allowed to publish on a daily basis.

"We can say it is the beginning of the (last) and final stage of the media reforms in the country," a senior Information Ministry official told Reuters, asking not to be named.

"We will accept applications in February and I expect there will be about (about) applicants."

The decision was made as part of an astonishing relaxation of laws governing the media in Burma, formerly the most dictatorial extreme introduced by Thein Sein's quasi-civilian government since it came to power 18 months ago. Reuters

Seven Super Reasons to get Shakey's Pizzanatic SuperCard

by Ivy Ong

Shakey's, the place for fun, family and pizza doubles the delight in every dining experience with the Shakey's Pizzanatic SuperCard. It's a super card that's made for pizza fanatics, with discounts, rewards, freebies and surprises awaiting every cardholder.

SHAKEY'S PIZZANATIC SUPERCARD IS AVAILABLE IN ALL SHAKEY'S STORES NATIONWIDE

1. Earn points with Shakey's Pizzanatic SuperCard. Every P100 Dine-In or Carry Out purchase is equivalent to one point, and all your points earned is redeemable at any Shakey's outlet nationwide as payment on your next Dine-In, Carry Out or Delivery purchase.

2. Dine in any Shakey's outlet nationwide and enjoy a 10 percent discount.

3. Order a large or party-sized pizza with 1.5 liters of Coke for delivery and get a choice of Hawaiian Delights, Pepperoni, Classic Cheese or Garlic and Cheese pizza of the same size for free. The offer is good for any crust large or party-sized pizza except Classic Cheese and Garlic and Cheese flavor. Enjoy a maximum of three orders with these free pizzas per Delivery.

4. Order a Grand Slam pizza for Delivery and get two 1.5 liters of Coke free.

5. Enjoy 10 percent discount when you drop by any Shakey's outlet nationwide for Carry Out.

6. Celebrate your birthday at your favorite Shakey's restaurant for a birthday treat. Receive a large thin crust Pepperoni pizza on either of Shakey's on your birthday or until seven days after the special day.

7. The Shakey's Pizzanatic SuperCard is valid for one whole year.

Shakey's
For Family Fun!

The benefits of Shakey's Pizzanatic SuperCard are not valid in conjunction with other promos and discounts, in birthday parties or with bulk orders. Promos include Family Meal Deals and the Shakey's Monster Meal Deals.

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Sunday BIZ

Lessons from his grandparents

By Linda B. Bolido

MICHAEL Zink, Citibank head for Asean

MICHAEL Zink, head of Citibank for Asean and Singapore country officer, laughs as he ratchets himself quoting yet again his grandparents. "May be I should write a book—'What I Learned from My Grandparents.'"

Indeed, when it came to the subject of financial literacy, Zink, who has a Master in Business Administration degree from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in Illinois, United States, seems to have learned most of the basics of prudent money management from his grandparents before he read his first business textbook and got acquainted with well-known financial experts.

Zink was in the Philippines recently for the two-day Citi #1 annual Asian Financial Inclusion Summit 2012 that discussed how to make both young and old enjoy money savvy and ways to enhance their knowledge and capability on financial matters.

The Citibank officer points out that, while the world is seeing growing affluence, some 2.3 billion people, roughly a third of the seven billion total population, are not in the banking system. Asia, the most populous continent, is home to 1.3 billion of these people.

"Many and more people in Asia are affluent, becoming middle class and doubling their (financial) assets," Zink says. "We have to educate people to act responsibly."

Zink adds one of the things he learned from his grandparents is "consistent sense is not so common."

"Good functioning of economies, particularly money, is supposed to be one of the things elders teach their kids. But with modern families increasingly fragmented (in Asia, overseas employment has left children without parents and/or grandparents), who will and can impart valuable wisdom on money matters as people do not "harvest" hard-earned cash in illiquid pretending scams like Ponzi schemes, Ramayana and several others) that came to light recently? And values if the elders themselves do not know any better?

Besides, the suspected pyramiding and Ponzi scams (two adult investment vehicles more not exactly mentioned. They were teachers, policemen, soldiers, businessmen, even local government officials.

Zink says this was why "(government) regulations are rolling banks (they have a responsibility under more stringent know-who they are buying. Banks) have to know if clients understand what they are 'buying' (in terms of services and products)."

"One of the 'unfortunate things' resulting from the financial crisis is that people think that debt is bad and that's unfortunate—many times debt, if (financially) used, can be helpful. (For instance, if there is not enough gas, some people still use be able to build a home if they just rely on savings.

Credit card, if used wisely, also provides (the things people need)," Zink says.

"(People take on) debt without understanding the consequences. Young people do not see the consequences of using a credit card), only the benefits or banks have to help them understand that a card is a handy tool if used wisely."

Not simply greed

As for those who fall for get-rich-quick or high-end-quick-return investment schemes, the Citi banker points out that it was "not necessarily greed that drives them (not entirely, as when somebody makes an attractive offer they will consider it." People need things to make life easier for them and their loved ones.

Zink also admits that banks, which traditionally stressed investing and intermediating to ordinary people, have to "relearn" to engage and find ways to make services easier so people will want to them and not be rarely coaxed.

But Zink stresses financial education was not a one-person or one-sector act. "Advocacy groups have to be involved in educating people on financial matters," he says.

The CEO or co-delegates from about 30 countries who came to Manila for the financial education summit were sharing best practices on how to reach financial literacy and how to bring the information to more people.

"The world is changing quickly. It is very dynamic as (we) have to set benchmarks," Zink says. He cites an observation that more data were being generated now in one day than in the whole 2000.

If affluence was creating new problems, the evolution of technology was also "shifting shed-lenges", he says. The generational divide, he adds, is resulting in a situation where the young are teaching their elders. "Schools have to keep up with digitally savvy kids," he notes.

The banker points out, however, that while information is ubiquitous, "wisdom is still rare. We have to learn to cut through the ocean of data, have to distinguish what is useful, have to understand when and get their information" and what information could be shared.

Gen-less crimes

He says, in today's world, there are bad guys out there stealing information. "(Identity) don't need guns to steal, information is floating out there," Zink stresses.

Nobody really knows who is actually seeing the stuff shared on Facebook, he adds, so people have to be informed.

He says part of a banker's job is to protect people's personal data, but it is a shared responsibility of regulators, consumers, banks and other stakeholders.

He mentions "a great program to teach teachers (how to teach financial literacy)" in Singapore because "Mentalities that tuned to happen around the dinner table do not happen anymore (We) have to find a way to iron this out sometime."

Citing another lesson from his grandparents, Zink sums up the plain-and-simple message of financial education as "living within one's means."

Although most of the people Citibank's financial education program runs aspire to reach some day in clients—at least not yet, Zink says Citi had always adapted to a changing world. "Citi is 200 years old. (It has) survived because it recognizes the world is changing and (there is a) need to shift. It is a matter of knowing when(it is time to shift because of the change."

A Coalition of the VIGILANT

TV5 leads a partnership for transparency in the 2013 elections

Continuing a tradition of promoting electoral transparency and keeping the public informed, TV5 is again at the helm for major news coverage and poll monitoring efforts for the upcoming 2013 midterm elections. It will be the latest contribution from the Television Network, having worked extensively with citizen's groups in the past such as the National Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL), the Parish-Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) and Legal Network for Truthful Elections (LENTE).

This time, TV5 extends and further strengthens its capabilities through partnerships recently signed with the Philippines' leading ICT and telecommunications companies PLDT, SMART, and Sun Cellular.

"We believe that people will be more active than ever in social media."

Signing for TV5 was President and Chief Executive Officer Ray C. Espinosa. Signing for the telcos was led by PLDT and SMART Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan, PLDT and SMART President Napoleon L. Nazareno, together with PLDT EVP and Head of Enterprise and International & Carrier Business Eric R. Alberto. Charles A. Lim, Chief Operating Officer of Digital Mobile Philippines Inc., signed for Sun Cellular.

Apart from giving news updates specially as the election count, TV5 will be giving increased emphasis on voter's education on poll automation, voter information, election day issues (such as voter disenfranchisement) and candidate profiles. There are news to be further enhanced by the technology partnership.

How Technology Will Help

The PLDT, SMART, and Sun partnership will support TV5's election day coverage on several levels, technical support in microwave transmission and fiber optics for wider uninterrupted coverage, server support and provisioning for bandwidth and software, especially in the social media realm wherein many voters are sure to be more active in their news reportage.

While TV5 will be mounting a nationwide coverage, it will be giving focus on areas of interest, particularly in the hotly contested local races in Metro Manila, such as Manila, Makati, Quezon City, as well as those in Pampanga, Camarines Sur, Naga, and Cebu. TV5 will also be with the key personalities in this elections where they cast their vote.

Citizen Journalists

"We also give emphasis on social media, especially on citizen journalism", said Mr. Espinosa. "We believe that people will be more active than ever to social media with updates in their areas. We plan to develop an identified pool of these citizen journalists who we will accredit and train in media management."

TV5 will be working closely with government agencies for these upcoming elections, especially with the Commission on Elections and the Philippine National Police.

It does so on extending mission for TV5's continuing effort of ensuring electoral transparency it is "educating and enabling" voters towards making the right choice. Voters active on social media now factor is more than ever towards this goal, sharing information on the real-time progress of the vote in their hometowns. This latest tie-up with technology giants PLDT, SMART, and Sun make voter's voices ever more relevant, carrying them to every household of a vigilant nation.

AirAsia opens doors to Taipei

By Karen Bartolazzi
Inquirer.net

TAIPEI—AirAsia is opening more doors for overseas Filipino workers as well as tourists this holiday season by offering low seat flights to Singapore and Taiwan (Taoyuan Int'l Airport).

According to Maan Hontiveros, AirAsia CEO in the Philippines, the move is not only convenient to passengers but is also cost-effective as it is the first low-cost traffic in the Philippines.

A joint venture between Filipinos in-vestors Hontiveros, Antonio Ozaeta Jr. and Richard Romero, and Malaysia's AirAsia International Ltd., AirAsia in the Philippines now provides four weekly flights to Taipei and daily flights to Singapore. The airline is flying brand-new Airbus A320s.

Latest statistics culled from the Philippines Embassy pegged the number of Filipinos working in Singapore at 171,000, while some 100,000 work in Taiwan.

"Taipei is a very important route for us right now. We are the only airline flying this route right now," says Hontiveros.

She points out that many OFWs in Taiwan come from Northern and Central Luzon, making Clark an ideal hub for their flights.

Hontiveros says that they are committed to serving the underserved, which is why the airline is based in Clark.

She explains that, by flying out of Clark (unction ion of Manila), the airline encounters fewer delays compared with the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

"Take has a lot of air traffic and delays whereas Clark offers unparalleled service," she says.

Ambassador Raymund Weng of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (Teco) in Manila says that an affordable air fare will have more travelers to the Philippines.

More than that, he says, the new route will encourage Filipino tourists to visit Taiwan.

Weng says Teco has made it easier for visitors to apply for visas in Taiwan.

"Our advice to those who, till out the forms and get your visa the next day," he says.

So what can tourists expect from Taiwan?

Upon stepping off the busy Taoyuan International Airport, your first time visitors to Taipei will immediately notice how modern the city is.

Although the place is filled with buildings, freeways and sprawling complexes of lifestyle and office structures, there is hardly any traffic snarl coming from the airport.

Also, despite being very modern, Taipei seems still generous in its display of ornamental touches and ceremonial borders and seems neutral plants fill every nook and cranny of the city.

Nestled among the modern structures are snippets of Taiwan's colorful past, with its many temples, mosques and relics. Most tourists seem to admire the gates that used to serve as entry points to the inner walled city.

This mixture of the old and new is probably what frames many tourists to Taipei. And the best part of it is that everything seems to be within reach via the city's clean mass rapid transit (MRT) system as well as its efficient bus lines and taxis.

Steeped in history

Taiwan has many museums, and any visitor may first want to visit the National Palace Museum for a good briefing on the country's history and culture.

Located on Zhishan Road, the museum has a constant stream of visitors coming to see the 693,000 Chinese artifacts and artwork originally from the Forbidden City in Beijing. Some 600,000 of these priceless art were shipped from mainland China to Taiwan when tensions rose between the nationalists and communists back in 1949.

Of particular interest are the museum's exhibits on ceramics and jade carvings, particularly the jadeite cabbage from the Qing dynasty which is one of the most popular items on display.

For tourists who speak little or no Mandarin, the museum offers free daily guided tours in English at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The museum also offers visitors a taste of palace food through its famous Yang Teahouse, which sits at the very top of the museum.

The teahouse was patronized after Emperor Qianlong's uncle in the Forbidden City making the dining experience even more special.

If imperial food is not your cup of tea, there is also the Silks Palace Restaurant a few steps away from the museum, which serves good Chinese fare.

As nearby Zhongshan Dimrou lies the Taipei Martyrs' Shrine, built in honor of all those who died in wars fought by the Republic of China (ROC).

Built on octagonal roof of blue glazed tiles, the white memorial hall houses a museum that tells the life story of the country's former chief executive.

The memorial hall is surrounded by a park filled with flower beds, echoing the colors of the ROC flag. Nearby is the National Theater and the National Concert Hall.

Charming attractions

Tourists can get much of the old world Taipei to one place. On Dalongdong area. The spot has been selected by Taiwan's tourism bureau as one of its more "charming attractions."

It is filled with temples, mansions and other historical structures.

In Dahongbang is the Baoan Temple, built by immigrants from mainland China.

The temple, decorated with lavish stone carvings and stunning dragon carvings, is considered to be the only temple in Taipei that has doors are also open to Confucius, Buddhist and Taoist followers.

A few steps away from the Baoan Temple and just across the street is the Taipei Confucius Temple with its simple white granite pillars. The structure resembles the original Confucius Temple in mainland China.

Taiwan's tourism bureau has also called the attractions of Lanyin to a quaint tea house behind Baoan Temple called Black Tea House.

Travelers should be aware that this little tea place is a big hit among locals and foreigners for its daily brews sourced from tea farmers in the mountains.

Aside from history and religion, the citizens of Taipei also love their art. It is literally everywhere—on streets, parks, beside the sidewalks, in parks and even featured on various local products being peddled at the malls and night markets.

Citizens are proud of anything made in Taiwan. Shop anywhere in malls and markets local to classic cafés to restaurants that they are selling wares "made in Taiwan!"

For the connoisseurs, the city offers the Taipei Fine Arts Museum and the Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei.

When night falls

Brave enough for the crowded night markets? In Taipei now is complete without shopping and food trips at the city's many night markets.

Famous for being a bargain hunter's haven, Taipei's night markets also boast of really good street food.

Be sure to drop by Shilin Night Market on an empty stomach for some challenging dining experience.

At the basement of the market is a food court which is constantly crowded. When night falls, the market is amazingly strewn with activity. The flurry of excited cooks frying oyster omelets, crabs and shrimps, dipping solidified tofu on sticks to baste, rustling local noodles into bowls and preparing the infamous stinky tofu. Smell is another one's senses open to the core.

If you're not adventurous enough, by night's fall, you may choose from a myriad of street food items. There is the 30cm gigantic chicken cutlets which are so crispy people line up even during cold nights. For a bite, there is also the usual beef noodles and the curious fried milk on sticks for dessert, which taste like mini cream puffs covered in butter and deep fried to perfection.

Back upstairs are stalls after stalls selling that have got to be the most merriest fruits, something Taiwan is also known for producing.

There are also a lot of kiosks selling souvenirs, boxes of the popular pineapple cakes, and all kinds of clothing and shoes.

And the best bargains are when they say that bargains can be found at night markets.

Go ahead and haggle because here a pair of flats can go for as low as NT$199, or roughly just around P300. They also have a lot of selling leather shirts, trousers, and watches clothing being sold for unbelievable such low bargain prices.

Ear-popping ride

Taipei 101, one of the world's tallest buildings, is probably one of the tourist stops everyone will no doubt make time for.

So grab your tickets to the country's highest structure and ride the world's fastest elevator which ascends at a speed of 1010 meters a minute. You get the ear-popping sensation similar to what you feel on an airplane. But the ride up is well worth your while since you get to see the spectacular views of Taipei from the top.

And the fun does not stop there. Instead Taipei 101's basement, another treat awaits those who are partial

SUDOKU

Each puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid divided into 3x3 boxes. Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Only one solution is possible. The difficulty level is indicated by the number of stars.

Concepción Sudoku By Mario Garcia

		4			7	5		3
	2					4	5	
3				9				
						7		
	9			1		8		2
		8						
					1			9
	3	9					7	
	5			4	2		1	

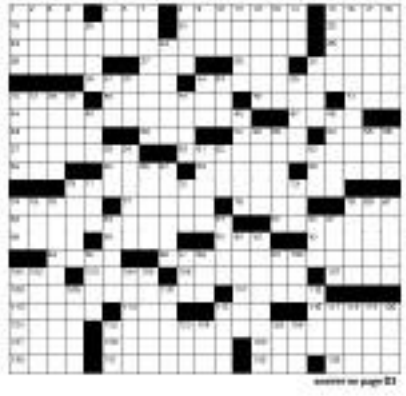
1 (Missing 5) ★★★★★

Answer to previous puzzle

7	4	1	8	9	6	2	5	3
6	3	5	2	7	1	8	4	9
9	8	2	3	5	4	6	7	1
5	7	3	9	8	2	1	6	4
4	1	9	5	6	3	7	2	8
2	6	8	1	4	7	5	9	3
1	9	4	7	2	5	3	8	6
8	5	7	6	3	9	4	1	2
3	2	6	4	1	8	9	3	4

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — **LET EM IN**



answer on page B3

'It's not about the money'

By Cint U. Juan
Contributor

CHASE and Sharon Yu

HEADON Tak Chua is a young mother of three who used to be a pre-school teacher until she put her career on hold to take care of her growing sons aged 7, 4 and 2. Another lady this press she wrote to us as H2Oheaven and asked if she could open a store just like it. It was a very touching e-mail. She penned us for our concept and experience[illegible] desire to have one like it to be[illegible] "mark of the wood"—in Quezon City.

H2Oheaven is the pioneering sustainable lifestyle store in the country which we started in 2008. In 2010 we started our own H2Oheaven organic vegetables. In 2011 we opened H2Oheaven to sell fresh organic produce, grass-fed beef, pasture-raised pork and free range chickens. Our H2Oheaven serves recipes from ingredients that we also sell in H2Oheaven and H2Oheaven.

As we were still swapping up the Philippine Pavilion souvenir shop in Seoul, Korea, I received Sharon saying that she would have to wait a while as

And she did. She showed me a video of a typical Sunday in Costa's Walk.

What impressed me was her sincerity and perseverance and her story as a mother. She had to change her children's diets to organic and natural food so they could learn to school and in doing their homework. Once they have a new dream of sweets and fast food, she noticed how they become hyperactive and have shorter spans of attention. Some call it ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder) and besides that condition, her son was also control-dyslexic.

She started changing her family's meals into healthier ones and would line up for 30 minutes at a Sunday market just to get and pay for organic vegetables. She would be very careful in choosing snacks and must have kids on carrot and multigrain chips. She would also ensure always as exactly as she's have children who have special conditions. So she knew that an idea for a "sustainable lifestyle" store in her area was timely.

I was pleasantly surprised to know that she never have to choose fish that came from sustainable sources. And would only choose fish that was good for his own children and grandchildren. After all, they have been in the fish business for about 75 years now. They know their fish.

I guess her a rundown of possible costs and investments. And she did her homework. She and her own support her spouse, Christopher, would leave the long drive from Quezon City to Avenida to attend our meetings which now became almost weekly as we neared the construction phase and the opening phase.

In about six weeks after meeting me, she formalized her Letter of Intent. Then in exactly ten weeks, she was ready to open.

It also helped that a relative was an interior designer who is also familiar with H2Oheaven. She used organic

FIRST from bike shop in Quezon City

SHARON Yu and partner

touches and followed our recommended finish and equipment. The store turned out to be a beautiful and functional space. Sharon even specified that there be a "kiddie area" as kids like hers can play while the mothers shopped.

She liked all the H2Oheaven recipes by serving them to her kids and found them very genuinely liked the healthful flavors of the H2Oheaven menu dishes.

It is about making money on a business that's new and timely? Sharon says that it is more than a business—it is actually is adopting a lifestyle. And her relatives have supported her in her choice and have actually started "going green" and local, too.

So, on the money who ask her on how much it costs to get a license to operate an H2Oheaven branch, she says, "It's not about the money." And I echo her reply. Running a sustainable lifestyle store is not about just having a business. It is about promoting the love for the soil, community and the planet. It is about adopting to "Paraluman, Bonor and Neryda." It is about promoting locavorism and sustainability so people may live while making others live. If you live the lifestyle and you can "walk the talk," then you can be the next Sharon. Our next Hosts or find who can spread the ECHO gospel in your "neck of the woods."

FREEWAY ART:

Trendy tribute to National Artists

Text and photos
by Arnaldo Ma. Guerrero
Correspondent

IT WAS a "no-holds-barred" event, as one participant put it. Featuring National Artist F. Sionil José. And anyone who knows Manong Frankie (to the younger writers call him) was not surprised, because the novelist is known for his outspoken views and candid opinions which sometimes jolt the uninitiated.

Prema Sullivan Lisa Manejo was the host.

Another program at the Glorietta, Makati City, paid tribute to National Artist Levi Celerio, the lyricist. And there was Pilita Corrales performing, crooning a dry ion of Ka Lori to sing and kiddingly warning him: "Pag ikaw ay pa-kumanin nacompalte na Ako if you don't sing I'll make your own ring."

The program for National Artist Boring Francisco was a fashion show with skilled-up models parading around in clothes inspired by the works of the novelist. A panel discussion followed, with actress Cherie Gil moderating another duo Manalo, art buff Tingting Cojuangco and painter Toto Francisco, a grandson of Boring.

These are just some of the recent events of Freeway Art (www.freeway.ph), the pet project of Elen Germanes for which promotes its National Artist Collectors Series. Other National Artists featured through clothes thus far (and still counting) are writer Nick Joaquin, painter Ang Kiukok, painter Vicente Manansala, and designer Ramon Valera.

CLOTHES inspired by the works of Botong Francisco

INVITATION to program honoring novelist F. Sionil José

In addition, the firm manages the boutiques Bubo and Stanislaus. Gois celebrates Pinoy pop culture through its Cartoonist Memorabilia Series, as beautified by iconic cartoonists like Alexis Fernandez, on the other hand, has its Young Designers Series.

There are 26 Freeway stores all over the country, 16 Gois stores and 12 Limondelo stores.

The retention is enough to make any fashionista giddy, like one editor I know. These include sensational sculptural dresses, tailored workwear like skirt dresses and work shirts, and Sunday wear like casual knit tops, all executed in various ways. There are also fashion accessories like tote bags, necklaces, watches and bracelets.

Who conceptualized Freeway Art?

"When most retailers were using celebrity endorsers for their products, my sister Shirley [Gois] and I thought of trying something radically different," recalls Sherie Germanes, CEO if Elle Fashionista. "Why not feature the works of Philippine National Artists? This may we can create awareness in our current generation and appreciation of Philippine Art."

The word was spread around by sympathetic editors, writers, bloggers and through Facebook, Twitter, e-mail,"text blasts" and word of mouth.

The result: "We do not have big big budgets to spare, so we do our best to be creative in how we market our merchandise."

"The sales of design series do well because they are affiliated fashion store," Sherie reports. "Once the series is launched, we do not repeat our items after the season. The sell-through of most of the items is high at 80 to 90 percent or being sold out."

Is it profitable?

"The company is profitable at a decent level," Sherie notes. "The competition is tighter today than in the past years due to more local and foreign entrants.

so it is these Filipino design series that allow our brands to stand out and offer something that any foreign brand cannot offer."

She concludes: "The talents of our Filipino artists come in different forms, and to capture them and reintroduce them to today's time is a wonderful journey for us as well. We hope that we are making a difference in our own small way."

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This Holiday season, EastWest Credit Cardholders will be treated to a wide range of delightful treats when they use their EastWest Credit Card in participating merchant establishments.

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AirAsia opens doors to Taipei

From page B2

enough.

Din Tai Fung. Hearing this phrase used to mean only for Chinese food connoisseurs to run on their seats. But for those who are puzzled, Din Tai Fung is the place to go for the best in[illegible] or steamed dumplings.

Din Tai Fung has been included in The New York Times' Top 10 restaurants and has also won the prestigious Michelin award. Testament to just how good the food served at Din Tai Fung are the daily long queues—often people will go through just to get a table.

The dining experience starts with appetizers like pickled cucumbers with a bit of spiciness to them. Then there are the seafood greens and more spicy dishes. Later, the waiter walks in carrying bamboo steamers filled with steaming, delicious dumplings.

The waiter even taught us how to eat the dumplings, instructing us to lift them by the tips from the bamboo container so as not to rip the delicate dough. All this fuss in handling the dumplings is worth it once you take a bite while the hot soup oozes your mouth, relishing its exquisite flavors.

Forty the dessert came in the form of steamed dumplings filled with red bean paste—and they were simply exquisite.

I will never look at Chinese food the same way again and hope someone brings the phenomenal Din Tai Fung to the Philippines.

I am now there is more in Taipei than what we covered in our four-day trip, judging from all the information pieces I've gathered in some twenty or more travel brochures. But I will definitely go back.

I will be back for another round at Din Tai Fung, possibly a relaxing dip at Beitou Hot Spring, a trip to [illegible] night markets, maybe. But if I can muster enough courage, I will even check out that weird restaurant over at Xining S. Road which serves food using toilets and other bathroom equipment.

For me, Taipei is just the beginning. The rest of Taiwan will remain to be explored.

Sunday BIZ

Top exec sets his heart in Shell Foundation

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

CESAR A. Buenaventura has more prestigious awards than most executives now manning the helm of the country's largest corporations.

He is a Management Man of the Year awardee of the Management Association of the Philippines, Outstanding Professional in Engineering awardee of the Professional Regulatory Commission, Outstanding Fulbrighter in the field of business according to the Philippine Fulbright Association, and a recipient of the Gawad Amerasia Award as one of the Top 100 Alumni Engineering Graduates of the University of the Philippines.

And the list goes on, much to the envy of other executives.

But the title that renders a real sense of fulfillment for Buenaventura is founding chair of the Pilipinas Shell Foundation Inc., the social development arm of the Shell companies in the Philippines that just celebrated its 50th year of responding to the country's development needs.

The 62-year-old, who still packs a full schedule, including a round of golf three times a week, says this seeing how far the foundation has gone and still being involved in its operations give him more than enough reason to keep on going, instead of just staying home.

"Shell is in my blood," declares Buenaventura, who started his career at Shell in 1956, rising to become its first Filipino CEO and chair in 1973. He held the positions until he retired in 1990. He stayed on as non-executive chair until 1992, but remains a director of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.

According to Buenaventura, the foundation was born in 1982 out of a dire need of Filipino corporations for skilled workers.

"There was a kind of a problem at that time. There were a lot of people graduating, but there were no jobs waiting for them. There were dropouts with no skills and could not find employment," says Buenaventura, "but on the other hand, companies badly needed skilled workers. So, we said, why not put up a foundation to address our needs?"

With an initial endowment of P5 million, Shell implemented the **Gawaran sa Kabuhayang Industriyal** (GAKI) program that provided out-of-school youth with employable skills as well as values formation.

"We worked out a system... how to teach out-of-school youth and help them become welders, mechanics, electricians, among others. We also had talents for tourism so that, not only did they learn the skills, they also developed the right attitude," says Buenaventura, who has five children, including one who is making a name in the furniture sector.

The GKI program remains one of the busiest programs of the foundation. In a span of over 30 years, Buenaventura says, over 5,000 young Filipinos have received skills training. Some have gone on to work for large companies here while a good number have gone abroad.

"Some have become plant managers because we did develop some very good people. There were a lot of applicants, but we really selected those with the right attitude and good potential. I am happy that the program is still there and remains relevant," says the Civil Engineering graduate.

Buenaventura likewise takes pride in the Sanayan sa Kabuhayang Agribisnes (Sika) program, which helps the youth from rural areas find productive lives as farm entrepreneurs.

"During our travels we saw that there were a lot of unproductive farms with very low yields, so we developed a program on agriculture. It was not directly related to Shell, but I felt that there were two things that needed to be done. The young had to be trained for something about an everyone can be absorbed in white collar jobs, and agriculture had to be developed," explains Buenaventura, who was made Commissary Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1991 by Queen Elizabeth II.

That method of employing business skills and techniques to solve social problems will be the subject of succeeding projects of the foundation over the next 20 years.

Buenaventura says the desire to improve the implementation of existing programs and the search for the next big initiative keeps him fired up and ready to go every day, even as he already has his hands full as managing partner of the Buenaventura Echauz and Partners Financial Services.

"I am still very much interested to doing a lot of things. Eventually I will get to smell the roses. But maybe I am already a little late for that," says Buenaventura.

CESAR A. Buenaventura, founding chair of Pilipinas Shell Foundation, celebrates the foundation's 25th year with Shell chair Edgar Chua.

BUENAVENTURA, the first Filipino CEO of the Shell group in the Philippines, was always around for the foundation's projects.

Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

IN THIS ISSUE
Instead of resolutions, let's set goals /D2

JRS EXPRESS
YOUR PARTNER IN TIME

Why the Catholic Church should apologize to Rizal's mother

THE ACTUAL: A member of Vito Cruz's group of the funeral remains of José Rizal on Dec. 30, 1912 around Plaza Sta. Ana, Binondo. The scene was accompanied by the Knights of Rizal who kept vigil the previous night, and by the Marcos.

It was cruel to deny Doña Teodora the remains of her son after the State and Church had united in executing Rizal—'What was my Lola Sisa's consternation to learn that the body was gone'

By Dean Rayen Basoko
Guesthour

COMING SO swiftly on the heels of Christmas and the Slaughter of the Innocents, the annual Rizal Day holiday on Dec. 30 usually passes fleetingly by as just another blessed day off, before we all plunge merrily into the noisy revelries and turbulences of New Year's Eve.

(In the late 20th Century, some of the well-known speakers on Rizal Day began those festivities a little early, perhaps even before or during their ceremonies.)

This year promises to be a little different, an event of a century ago come up for commemoration—namely the burial of José Rizal by Filipinos and Americans at the Luneta on Dec. 30, 1912—fully 16 years after his execution by firing squad (near the same spot) in 1896.

Headed by President Benigno S. Aquino III, this year's Rizal Day event at the Luneta features a full-dress reenactment and commemoration, by the Knights of Rizal and the United Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, of the 1912 ensemble of Rizal's remains on an urn, from the custody of his family in (his) house to

www.11

We will remember 2012 for these (private) quotes

'Why have party guests developed the habit of bringing home table centerpieces?'

I'M NOT ALONE in hoping that next year, Globalman and the New Year will not numb up on us just like it did this year. It was—just like that. It's becoming harder to relish a moment, much less a season. Time—the most precious, most perishable commodity—is gone in a blink.

You're not just imagining the dizzying speed of time; it's real, according to my friend and Lifestyle columnist Liz Hernandez. (Time is faster because of the shift in the ether-bound energy of the universe, she said. Like I wrote last week, don't make me explain that.)

Two dear friends left us this year without saying goodbye. American writer, Inamia Ruff and diehard Scorsonian Eddie Perdomo died in the dead of night. This year, if I remember well, last September. For once, I watched the US Open on TV without Eddie's unsolicited opinions—in text—that made me laugh and curse at the same time. He had this special delay for Serena Williams and Andy Murray's moves. And, he never saw Nora Aunor triumph in "Thy Womb."

Dr. Henderito "Teyet" Pascual woke up at 3 a.m. one day last month, gasping for breath. He died a few hours later, and two days before my book launch—an event he surely would have loved in style-conscious, he Teyet, without his having planned it, was a style arbiter, one only a Filipinista collector. At the launch, with his dear friend Lolly Dimagiba, our editor in chief, we traveled in time: a dash on the head candelabra in memory of Teyet.

No proper goodbyes

We will remember 2012 as the year we lost those two dear friends. There were no proper goodbyes, but then, sometimes in life, we're really unable to...plan our goodbyes.

We will remember 2012 for those moments and quotes...some funny yet telling, others not so funny, but all reflect the year that was, if not the times we're in:

+"Greetings to summer..." (Why don't you take a deep breath?)—President Aquino cursed to me on stage and whispered, during the launch of my book "I'm afraid of heights (so why I can't socialclimb)." He seemed bore dared I was.

Later, right after the program, as we repaired to the back of Blackwell Noir for dinner, the guest of honor looked annoyed as he repeatedly—"Greetings for ni..." (You can breathe now). The presidential advice went unheeded; that was how stressed I was. But I will remember 2012 as the time I dared launch a book with hardly any planning, but with a great band from longtime friends.

+Our senior citizen friend recalled what she saw in the diner in a restaurant.

"At the next table was this young man, must be about 30, who stood up to pull out a chair for his older woman companion, perhaps his mom. She don't see that often among today's young guys, not even older guys... I wanted to give that boy a pat on the back."

We won't agree with her many. Men today aren't used to opening doors for women and the elderly, or offering their seats. You even get stopped on in the elevator as men, old or young, try to beat you to the door.

+A high-society insider and

TO PAGE C2

DOING the Camino: Marlene Ulchim, Dede Macalalad, Arsenic and Crispy Lazrol

FAMILY pilgrims Sea Princess, Windy and Farrah Imperial, Crispy Lazrol, Isabel Barcarolo-an, Jasmin and Quennie Lazrol and Carla Paris

OUR Boss Camino troupe: Margo Salazar, Jerry Gozar, Frenzie and Isabel Barcarolo-an, Bryan Prieto, Marlene Ulchim and son Timothy (standing) Jeri Salazar, Dede Macalalad, Sea Princess, Windy and Farah Imperial, Charity and Bobby Rasos, Bret Rasos, Jasmin Lazrol, Arsenic Lazrol, Carla Paris and Tess Tes

A complete new look every day—for Camino de Santiago

WALKING couple Charity and Bobby Rasos

FRUITFUL break: Tess Tes and Jerry Gozar

WALKING through beautiful paths

DAR photographer Timothy Ulchim along the Camino

RELAXED walker Flora Tan and Carla Paris following the yellow arrow

FLYING conversation between mothers along the Camino

WHAT'S in your bucket list?

Camino de Santiago de Compostela was not originally on my bucket list, but after completing the pilgrimage earlier this year, it's an item I would heartily support that you add to yours.

The Camino de Santiago dates back over a thousand years. It is a network of ancient pilgrim routes converging across Europe and coming together in the south of St. James. Legend holds that the apostle's remains were entered by boat from Jerusalem to Spain and interred in what is now the city of Santiago de Compostela.

Also known as The Way of St. James, the Camino enjoyed the status of many routes to Santiago de Compostela. During the Middle Ages, the route was highly travelled. However, the Black Death, the Protestant Reformation and political unrest in 14th-century Europe led to its decline. By the 1980s, only a few pilgrims per year were arriving in Santiago.

Things changed in 1987, when the Council of Europe declared Camino as the first European Cultural Route, and Unesco named it a World Heritage Site. Today, thousands of modern-day pilgrims from around the world walk The Way.

I first visited Santiago Cathedral in the Jubilee Year 2004, as we toured Spain following the wedding of my cousin Margaret Cargo to Javier Salazar. Even then, I could feel the solemn energy inside.

Early this year, Margaret invited the family back for a pilgrimage. Host cousin's younger brother Edmundo Cargo, while the lady additionally decent can opt for the full 790 km starting from Roncesvalles, France, but decided on a 100-km route starting in Silloso.

First order of business

While in Sillosa, the first order of business was, of course, shopping for El Corte Inglés, the department store. We also took time to see the Guggenheim Museum, but I'm sure you can all appreciate that our tour took more time shopping.

The entire walk took us one week, from the border of Castilla y La Mancha and Galicia, the final portion of the pilgrimage. We walked a modest 20-30 km each day, spending six to eight hours traversing the beautiful Spanish countryside and stopping to rest at cafés, or inns, along The Way.

It is interesting to note that hiking so much is more painful than running a 42K marathon. My main challenges were waking up in the morning and traveling light, two traits I do not possess. Margo and Jeri had even given each of us a suggested packing list. Knowing our lack of discipline and recognizing that laundry services are available in each inn.

We, my posse, Spain-based cousins kindly know me, I found luggage space by bringing only a pouch, my son Bryan Prieto, whose luggage allowance I used to achieve a complete new look every day.

Tessa!

Tessa Prieto-Ilekis

A note to those planning the trip—comfort is good. Hiking boots with ankle support. Running shoes are not up to the rugged terrain, Remember: The rain in Spain is a major pain.

Alternative routes

Brandy succulents souls from canvassers, foot rubbers, arm massages, hair and cologne had to include painkillers, blister ointment, muscle ointment and anti-inflammatory medicine. Major Gogle as here to see needle and thread for blisters. Tessa! The needle and run through the blister, leaving a trail of thread inside to drain the blister.

Each day was broken down into the morning, to midday walk, a stop for lunch along the route, and wrapping up the rest of the afternoon by reaching the next town. We all walked at various paces, covering our own distances; the others did absolutely easier and shorter coverage with the aid of Jeri and our luggage van. We all met and for dinner in the town's main area to chat.

Unlike most pilgrims carrying all of their belongings with them in a backpack, we opted for the luxury of a support van that transported our luggage from one town to the next. It was difficult enough to walk all those kilometers with a small backpack for just my makeup and camera.

Along the route, casual stores became rich oases stocked with basics, barware with yummy treats, and lush forests provided incredible scenery. We were rewarded with hot dinner meals and lots of Spanish wine in the evening. Count on the Winskie Brothers to have our supply of red wine. Bryan Prieto shared tapas, making sure the trip was a local, as experience as well.

Varying accommodations

Our room accommodations were varied, allowing us to experience different styles of living quarters ranging from small palaces to basic hostels reserved for late stars, and to albergue with dorm-style rooms. We had many funny incidents, such as cousin Theo Tes, locked Ramadhanan and Farah Imperial, dad-bathing up and down bunk beds while in the nurse's quarters, various "interactive" evenings of snoring and sleep talking.

In order to receive the Compostela, pilgrims must, at minimum, complete the last 100 km of the journey, carrying a Pilgrim's Passport that is stamped on a daily basis. Once we reached Santiago, we registered at the Pilgrim's Office and proudly received our Compostela.

On Sunday, Sept. 30, we all attended the Pilgrim Mass at Santiago Cathedral. Feeling extremely happy and blessed, we reminisced on the journey we all shared. We all took photos, and many talked about how they got to know their children better, like my cousin Marlene Ulchim and her son, Timothy.

For all the different interactions and prayers we all shared, we will have those memories forever. The terrain could not have been too steep with the prayers, the conversations and laughter we had along the way.

After a pilgrimage, there is one necessary answer where is that a step in Paris. From hiking boots to high-heel shoes as a result! But that's a completely separate item on my bucket list, so I'll reserve that story for another day.

Follow @tessaprieto on Twitter or e-mail inspiration@inquirer.com.ph

COMPOSTELA-CERTIFIED Camino pilgrim, at the Belen rise in front of Santiago Cathedral

CLOCKWISE from top left: A GPS stone marker in Lugo, Spain; Sunday Mass ceremony at Cathedral Santiago de Compostela; cousin Margo Salazar giving alms to Sea Princess inside Santiago Cathedral

PILGRIMS strike chapel at El Cebreiro at the start of our walk

TREE-LINED Camino trail in Portomarin, Spain

RELAX! Frenzie, Windy Imperial, Marlene Ulchim and Timothy Ulchim at Monte Do Gozo

SMILING walker Isabel Barcarolo-an, Marlene Ulchim and Quennie Lazrol

Why the Catholic Church should apologize to Rizal's mother

From page C1

Rizzolo into the hands of the public for a while at the Ayuntamiento in Intramuros, then burial at the Luneta.

Thanks to old historic photograph taken in the City of Manila on Rizal Day 1912, showing the urn with the bones of Jose Rizal borne on a military caisson drawn by six black horses, and flanked by an honor guard of the Knights of Rizal (with caps and striped sashes) and white-clad members of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. The location of this 2012 event is now the Dian Rizzolo de Jose Lorenzo Park.

Amazing moments

How the various and sorry of history produced amazing moments in time, frozen in these historic photographs, is poignantly told by Ambeth Ocampo Lopez Bunag, granddaughter of Sisa, the sister of Rizal, in her classic biography "Lolo Jose: An Intimate Portrait of Rizal" (Manila: Instituto de Idiomas, 1982). It is from out of this book, the only portrait also of the mother of Jose Rizal, Dona Teodora Alonso de Alonso Rizal (1827-1911) and of his entire family.

Her desire then, she eventually, during the execution of Jose Rizal on Dec. 30, 1896, was for his mother was denied custody of his remains. Jose he was denied a Catholic church burial on consecrated ground and how he was secretly buried at Paco Park in an unmarked grave.

As Bunag wrote: "The previous evening (Dec. 29, 1896), Doña Teodora had gone from one official to another, begging to be given her son's body after the execution. Many were moved, but others were not. So she went to the mayor of Manila, Don Mariano Lasiqui, who acted on his own to grant her wish. She and Don Francisco spent the morning of the execution attended in the house of my Lolo Jose, Don Silvestre (they had been staying on and off, since their eviction from Calamba. Lola Sisa had ordered a coffin for her brother and it was sent in a hearse to the Luneta as soon as word came that all was over.

"What was my Lolo Sisa's consternation to learn that the body was gone—and nobody able, or willing, to tell her where it had been taken. She hurried to the city cemetery at Paang Bundok (where, it is learned, my Lolo Jose had expressed a wish to be buried), but no body had been taken there. She made the rounds of the various parishes, but to none had there been a burial that morning. Other members of the family were going from one authority to another, begging to be told where the body had been buried, but were met only with silence and a shrug.

"Her my Lola Sisa refused to give up. She continued her round of the graveyards—and was finally rewarded. At the Paco Cemetery she told my grandparents she had at last found the ill-fated Major Manuel Lozano and some army officers inspecting a grave. When they left, Lola Sisa hurried to the site. It was a freshly dug grave and could only be that of her brother. She went to the area, and persuaded him to mark the grave with the small marble slab she carried. The marble slab, designed by family friend Dionisio Ongjunco, was inscribed with three letters, RJLA—my Lolo Jose's initials in reverse. The family feared that a mere asphalt tombstone might prompt the authorities to remove the body and hide it elsewhere, to prevent any public veneration of Jose Rizal. It is said that a guard was placed at the Paco Cemetery to discourage suspects."

PHOTO from the book "Lolo Jose: An Intimate Portrait of Rizal" (1982), by Asuncion Lopez Bunag

Cold oblivion

The Rizal family did not gain custody of his remains until the end of the Spanish colonial regime in the hands of Commander Denny in 1898. Rizal's bones were exhumed from the cold oblivion of Paco to the vault of the Mock Battle of Manila Bay.

Two years later, in the annual that followed the American occupation of Manila, Rizzolo united the chance to convey my Lolo Jose's body to a hundred by Church or State," never fearing. "Spain had failed to the Philippines; America can escape such care in Manila on Aug. 13, 1898. Four days later, on Aug. 17, my Lola Sisa, accompanied by her daughter Angelina, sculptor Romualdo Rizzolo de Jesus, Higino Fransisco and Jerome Ongjunco, went to the Paco Cemetery and had the grave dug up.

"The body was found to have been buried directly into the earth, without a coffin. Nevertheless, the clothes were still recognizable, though whatever my Lolo Jose had hidden in his shoes had long rotted away. A victuless decoy, a leather purse was kept in a glass and silver cup in Lola's house.

"The remains were taken to my Lola Sisa's house, where Higino Francisco and Romualdo de Jesus drew the bones, silver reverently washed the bones. They were later placed in an ivory urn carved by Dr. Jesus. This urn was venerated in frequent public ceremonies during the 1900s, when Rizal began to be honored as the National Hero of the Philippines."

And so in the repose of his family's bosom, in his mother's everlasting solicitude, Rizal's bones lay for 14 more years. Unbeknownst to them and shortly thereafter, Americans such William Howard Taft (the first Civil Governor under American Occupation) and Henry A. Cooper (Hon., Wisconsin) had discovered Rizal for themselves through his writings, while wrestling with their own questions of what America ought to do for, about, or with the Philippines.

In 1901, the United States Philippine Commission issued Decree No. 243 authorizing a suitable monument for Jose Rizal, with funds for its construction to be raised by public subscription, a worldwide design contest for the future Rizal Monument elected work from the retreat de La retreat.

The proclaimed winning design, which was a tentacle in Italian Carrara marble by Carlo Nicoli ("El Heroe de Bagong Imperio") was, however, never built. The simpler second place winner, "Patria Amada" by Swiss artist Richard Kissling, is what we find in the Luneta today.

Final tomb

Bunag described the culminations of a monumental build-

ing process that apparently outlived Doña Teodora by 1911.

"In 1911, the foundations were laid for a monument at the Luneta that would also serve as the final tomb for the hero's moral remains. On Dec. 29, 1912, the urn containing the remains was borne in solemn procession from the family's house to the Ayuntamiento. Dan Ben Mayfield was the principal speaker in the Philippines (Teodora Alonso was laid in state in the same house, the previous year.) In the midst of the Ayuntamiento, the urn was enshrined on a magnificent catafalque surrounded by innumerable floral wreaths, offerings of the nation. Throughout that night, the Knights of Rizal and other patriotic groups as well as the public kept vigil round the catafalque.

"Next morning, Dec. 30, 1912—16th anniversary of the martyrdom—the urn was borne to the Luneta on an artillery caisson drawn by six horses. Thousands joined the procession and thousands more lined the streets.

"At the Luneta, the ceremonies were led by acting Governor Newton W. Gilbert and the two ranking statesmen of the Philippine Assembly, Sergio Osmeña and Mariano Perez, the latter son of Rizal's dearest friends. There the urn was deposited in the crypt of the base over which would rise the monument...

"The monument they accomplished has become a national landmark, the most visible citizen of the nation in its present size.

"But neither of his parents lived to see his monument."

Rizal's father, Francisco, died in Manila in 1898. His mother, Doña Teodora, died in August 1911 just a year and a half before Rizal's burial at the Luneta on Dec. 30, 1912, the event whose centenary we commemorate today. She had lain in state in the very same Ayuntamiento for year before Rizal was buried at the Luneta.

Wronged and harmed

In the year 2000, the good Pope John Paul II offered apologies on behalf of the human to all who had been wronged or harmed in history by the Catholic Church, notably to Galileo Galilei for the events of over three centuries ago involving his predecessor Urban VIII and the whole question of the Earth being the Center of the Universe.

He called on all the prelates of the Catholic Church to exercise courage to follow his example in making such historic apologies for wrongs that need acknowledging.

I think the Philippine Catholic Church does owe itself an apology to Rizal's mother for their inhumane treatment of him, even as a convicted doctrinaire of the Philippine Revolution, in denying her custody of his remains. The Philippine Church has not heeded the call of Pope John Paul II in any matter within their realm. They must drink that, soldier him, for its fallibility gives them impeccability.

It was so cruel and unjust to deny Doña Teodora such a pitiable request after the State and Church had ordered it executing him and sacrificing their blood lust against the innocent, to do enough him.

I appeal to Manila's apologists to her and not for Jose Rizal (who'd neither want nor need it). Or else the Church should suffer forever the present seclusion from Philippine history that has continued unabated since 1912, when first learned news for the national hero before final sanctuary at the Luneta were given to the Masons, and denied to the Catholic Church.

We will remember 2012 for these (private) quotes

From page C1

social pundit, after attending one of this year's biggest birthday bashes, asked, "Why have party games developed the habit of bringing home table centerpieces?" The jars dropped as he watched matrons in long evening wear lugging one of the well-decked ballroom, the scene...you need seven adults and an ox-cart—and then that doesn't mind the tables.

The night is usually nothing new. The maternity practice...who knows how and when it started among the well-heeled—around...has been around for some time. Sometimes matrons even enlist the help of waiters to carry the decor out of the ballroom to their cars.

Tacky practice

Unless the party host asks the guests to feel free to take home the decor, bundling up the centerpiece and whatever party decor there is, is a tacky practice, if you ask me. It's matron can spend a Dior figure now on her evening wear, surely she can drive home nobody else's party decor. A party host of nothing room doesn't look nice with that centerpiece down.

A seasoned party hostess had a subtle, if gracious, way of preventing the guests from bringing home her decor. She had staff stationed at the door to tell departing guests to please leave behind the floral centerpieces because they would be delivered to a chapel.

• Two mothers of boys in Binondo recently obviously are wary of today's tween girls who they find much too aggressive, especially for

their sons. "When his girl classmate returned his cap which the latter owned, it smelled of perfume. She had the nerve to spray it with her seductive scent. Boy," said the one, peeved mom.

"I was surprised to see how these girls know how to pose seductively for the camera. A bat pose—with pouty lips and inviting eyes—is cool, to them," said the other mom. They're talking of girls who are barely 14. (Times like these I regret today's basic daughters.)

• Speaking of seduction, this year's "it" hunk Derek Ramsay was overheard telling a friend, after my book launch, how he was taken aback when, during the launch, a woman of a certain age (meaning no spring chicken, really) greeted him and made sure her tongue was left lips, as if to say "yummy." Surely she wasn't referring to Vicente Villaviencio's special lechon served at the launch.

• A Japanese industry executive talked of a growing market—"Men...more and more they're using sarong, and heavy at that."

• Magnum's big boss John Gokongwei on the Filipino's ice cream eating habit..."They use ice cream only three times a year." So—his company tried to make sure Magnum would be that ice cream. How? "Good quality but affordable. And good marketing." Gokongwei was proud of the very first step they took—good use of social media.

• Over our holiday dinner, Rizal Jose Sanchez said, when asked about her role organizational in last year's launch's job: "When he (Director Secretary Blas Ronaldo) comes home, we don't talk shop. He comes home tired with and a playmate."

• A wise friend, in an attempt to tone down the early stomachs of the ladies who lunch, said, "Friends carry their own energy and power. They can harm or they can uplift. They have the physical energy to be self-fulfilling."

With that, we went to the dessert buffet, after having called down first.

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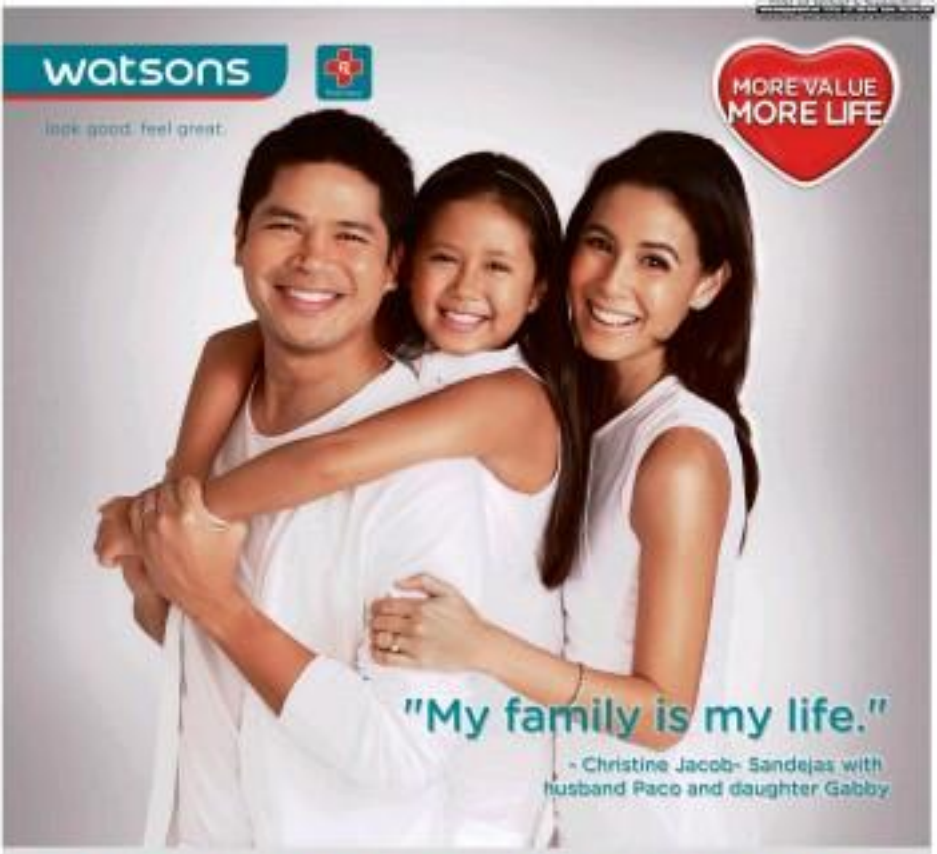

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Sexy. Stimulating. Sage. Survivor
SHARING THE VOICE OF AGE AND WISDOM
Contributing Editor Chit Rocco

Prose, poetry and the Apo Mabini parade project

Gilda Cordero Fernando

FOREVER 81

PROSE AND poetry are such different disciplines. Poetry likes to linger, to savor, to sit by the wayside spinning metaphors. Prose likes words, too, but never on the essence itself. Prose is more interested in telling the story, in bringing the tale to its conclusion. A chanting of metaphors is good enough, too many will distract.

That is why I'd rather paint. For me it's much easier than writing a poem. Of course, there are those who are adept at both fiction and poetry. They are few.

Poets can always tell when a prose writer is trying on hand to write a poem, the same way that fiction writers can detect a poet trying on hand to tell a story. Both are labors of love, but the fusion sometimes exhibit telltale signs of hard labor.

Amado [supposedly name] varies are a different breed altogether. They are two, sometimes more, as interested in quieting their keen insights than they sometimes forget their syntax or their spelling (hehe). That's okay, because when fiction writers renew the senses they usually don't get anything straight, except maybe the punctuation.

In several decades, there has been an attempt to combine different forms. University of the Philippines (UP) professor Jing Hidalgo caught "evocative manifestos," which frame a God and story with the art of fiction. There is the prose poem (I believe it is passé), the short story that fiction writers can denote

Prose, poetry and the Apo Mabini parade project

From page B1

temp, nor is a flashy new car like the ghetto rides, but in a status property. In those days, puppies were truly goody. They had covered wood enclosure mirrors on the hood, a couple of nickel-plated horns, a 16-ft-high antenna with multicolored plastic strips. On its dashboard, it had an altar complete with plastic flowers, lost-the-texture and dangling rosary (mayours had blinking Christmas lights all over no matter the month).

My dreams have since shrunk. All I wished for now was a wheelchair decorated like a jeepney. There are many wheelchair users and I'd wanted to share my ideas with them. I came up with a full scenario. I would ask Dr. Aveo Cruzcosa—what an crazy friends he—to host a parade of embellished wheelchairs at St. Luke's Medical Arts Institute of the Making High School of the Arts would embellish maybe a dozen wheelchairs, turn them into sculptures.

I told Gerry Leonardo (who made the historic Kalaupapi movement in Sor Southeast about it, about the wheelchair-embellished like a jeepney about the whole project. He went wild. He wanted to do a wheelchair with wings, one with lights, a Samsaranian chair, a Emma chair decorated with her architecture Valentina's snakes (your name!). He wanted a rolling confessional for making to dying patients. He wanted a chair, its wheels wrapped with the rubber of galoshes making that would leave images as it rolls.

Gerry further voiced that there would be a wheelchair with palm-up bones, breathing lung, eyes that moved as head lights, chrome-ed rears that were speakers for music. And the day wasn't even finished.

Before midnight I texted that St. Luke's should donate their old wheelchairs to the project. He texted back that for embellishments—Andal, Lisa, Aiza, mirrors, Christmas lights, sounds, small mirrors, wedding, etc., they would need about P20,000 per unit. I texted him that if Doc Cuzcosa wished, the doctors could donate $100, several old chief prizes, or the chairs could be auctioned off.

The opening ceremony, I continued, would be a parade of wheelchairs bearing PWD personalities like Senator Jamie Napoles Ahuevo, art movers and former art dean Bobby Chabet, artist Manny Mabang Santos, heaven founder Eggie Apostol, etc.

On Sunday I told Don Dayanong about it during the inauguration of the fourth wing of San Pedro Museum. He was enthused. He and Gerry Leonardo and the Mabiling gang, who would execute it, and his son to meet after the holidays to flesh out the details. Aburjan. (Karina Bolasco suggests that those embellished wheelchairs be given out upon valentes at the Manila International Airport).

If you're afraid that your aging body is becoming useless and your memory faulty, your imagination will always be there to use that your chronic come true. It's fun to be old. Try it sometime.

A year for gratitude

From page D1

reminder: friends and families who had lost loved ones the year before, those who were struggling with illnesses yet so far ill, ignored, for those who recently lost a job, a relationship, or someone very dear to them. The world as we know it stops when these happen because they show us what truly matters.

Tragedy in the world

In the New York Times, columnist Maureen Dowd came out with a beautiful reflective write by a prior friend of hers entitled "Why God?", an attempt to answer the question in light of all the tragedy in the world. The piece closes with this powerful statement that resonated deeply with me—"I will never satisfactorily answer the question 'Why?' because no matter what response I give, it will always fall short. What I do know is that an unconditionally loving presence soothes broken hearts, binds up wounds, and renews us in life. This is a gift that we can all give, particularly in the suffering. When this gift is given, God's love is present and Christmas happens daily."

Right after I'm finished the latest Anne Lamott book, "Help, Thanks, Wow—The Three Essential Prayers," and its equal sister and Sassy Lamott Indians, she explains in the reader how the three prayers carried her through. It's perfect reading to close a difficult but terribly busy and blessed year, and a way of saying thanks for what we're thankful for all that is yet to be in 2013.

My favorite line in the entire book is this: "Love falls to earth, runs from the ground, pools around the affliced. 'Love pulls people back to their feet. Bodies and souls are fed. Bones and love heal. New blades of grass grow. Love is the answer. The sun rises." In 2013, may each one of us, in our own way or another be graced by that kind of love, and may we be given opportunities to pass on that love to others. May we find it in our hearts to begin and end each day of the new year with gratitude for whatever it is we are given, and for all that will yet come to pass.

A blessed and meaningful 2013 to all!

Follow the author on Twitter @ourladyshoes

Instead of resolutions, let's set goals

Conchita C. Razon

MY CHAIR ROCKS

Nothing can give us more reason for being than an aspiration that will impact lives and influence people

ANOTHER YEAR is over. Almost. Seems like 2012 just zipped by on a blur. Suddenly we want to play catch-up. We have not done enough, perhaps, and now want to do more. We see where we goofed and inch to do damage control. A little more thought could have helped. It is too late.

Unlike an unfinished painting, we cannot add a few more strokes to enhance the color or cover up flaws. We can't flesh up words we have left halfway done.

Get compassion for the ex-monks to give control of clients to take these defective vaccines to be subpar. moms. We can't. The year allows us rewinding. Time wasted is erased recall.

What does it say in "The Beauty of" of Dear Khaysan? "The moving finger writes, and having writ, moves on: nor all thy Piety nor Wit shall lure it back to cancel half a line, nor all thy Tears wash one a word of it."

Does this depress you? It shouldn't. There's a new year just ahead. Isn't it so glorious?

"Hope is the thing with the threshold of the year to come, whispering, 'it will be happier.'" —Alfred Lord Tennyson

The latest and probably not the last prediction about the end of the world was obviously a dud. So we call it Mayan calendar fail? A great many still people Chinese scoffed at the hype about Dec. 21. But some didn't pay their utility bills, just in case. A few of my friends actually lost sleep over it. Products of World War II kids we still, they were worried about what to expect. I advised them, "Why, where are you going?" They thought about it. Cheard nervous laughter, and they never brought it up again.

I wonder. Would it have ended with a bang, or just a whimper? We have something serious about global warming, natural disasters and wars. There is talk that the world is winding down and will go out in a flash, not a sizzle. Whatever.

Quick review

If you read the Bible, you know the signs. Mark 13:32 says: "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

How was 2012 for you? I can't complain!

Here's a quick review of events I remember.

We almost had a Miss Universe. In my book, she won it—Mahoney Iris. Jacinto Thronton.

The controversial H1 bill was not. And.

We lost the King of Comedy in Jay Tuzon were endless tears. But the laughter remains.

In May we impeached a chief justice in a televised trial. The entire was embarrassed.

The world went into shock when Hermon hit the casinos and rooms for the count. But he is still our champion.

Filipino Flash Tennis Dossier Jr. 6

USMO chose for Sense of the Year.

Senator Femenino Juan/Nonoy Escudero launched a best-selling autobiography.

Ana Magsaysay threw his hat in the ring for a seat in the Senate. There are only a few good men like him left on our political horizon.

Ana Miguel Corpuz-Aquino bought a large portion of Philippine Airlines shares. They promised a fleet of newer and better planes. Will their seats work now?

Lady Gaga came to town and there was a protest. Sting was here. So was Elton John. Ticket prices skyrocketed. They sold out.

There is a new Filipino saint.

"Gangnam Style," with over a billion hits on YouTube, is the latest dance craze. Even cabinet members are doing it.

In August we lost a great man, MCQ Sweetyway Jesse Robredo. He left his mark in Naga. RIP.

Typhoon Pablo wrought death and destruction in Davao Oriental, Compostela Valley and Surigao del Sur. Thousands of residents are still reeling from the savage storm.

Death just sit there. Script

As people left under New Year's resolutions? I used to. Days before the end I was sitting down my "to do or not to do" list. Right on top were two items: quit smoking and go on a diet. Well, I haven't smoked in 20 years!

I don't do resolutions anymore. There are enough shoulds from doctors. I don't need more. I already have covered every naughty habit I needed to break. Almost all.

Snap, crackle and pop

A health guru recently advised me to learn to my body. Total and I'm mind myself of existence. I have to watch snap, crackle and pop. Consciously renew dreams that I don't see what still works before I launch into anything novel. Such as, I recently found cold while posting for a Christmas photo, kneeling is out.

Instead of resolutions, shouldn't we set goals? Short-term goals, maybe? Yes, even people of age must have them. Seeking out give us more reason for being than an aspiration that will impact lives and influence people. They say that without a goal, one is just a dreamer; that a goal is a "dream are on fire."

Dreams are not just for the young. Don't take me out. When Chet clocked, there was fire still burning in my belly. (Sis. It was not heartburn.)

The young and reckless want to set the world on fire. We are wiser and what and whom we ignite. But we can't. Passion is RIP.

It will soon be 2013. What do we hope to see? Change? Remember, it starts with you. Don't settle for just the illusion of change. Make a choice to give rather than take. Do something good for others. Touch someone's life. It is not about you. Make it about someone else. Just look around you!

The New Year will unfold with brand new days, ready for us to jump in and live them fully.

"The oldest beauty about time is that you cannot waste it in advance. The next year, the next day, the new hour are lying ready for you, as perfect, as unspoiled, as if you had never wasted or misapplied a single moment in all your life. You can live it over a new leaf every hour, if you choose."—Arnold Bennett

Happy New Year!

Yes, there is a Santa Claus

Chit Roces

NOT QUITE THERE

He may well be the most meaningful Christian tradition among children, overshadowing the Nativity itself

WHEN IS the right time to tell children the truth about Santa Claus?

For my own children, the telling was provoked by a question from a daughter—an innocent question that elicited a guilty, if sincerely, confession from a parent whose own enthusiasm for the whole charade had been on the wane.

We had played the charade all the five years we had lived in the United States, where Santa somehow is a constant character, and convinced playing it for the four years we had been back home.

For one thing, back home we no longer had the style we had in Houston. Trees, a facility-created for a be-ware) looking, ornaments conscious Santa-like-me, it started toys bought in post-Christmas sales and promised the newest toy in the world. Getting them and setup them in my son's time—ever a whole year in last. We have such facility. I was humiliated and found to get dopey.

A week after Christmas, my eldest child and only daughter, Gia, just turned nine, with my newest little uncle both in her hand, came asking, "Mommy, what is this?" It was a record of Santa's list of wishes to grant across the years. I felt aroused and was only relieved to confess.

"Well, now you know."

"I just don't believe in Santa anymore," she declared, turning away from me.

Gia became an accomplice and seemed to relish that sort of adult role, even referring to her brothers now as "the children." It was she herself who delighted and the two older boys—in good time. Thus the conspiracy grew, with the youngest, Yen, at age four, three years younger than the brother before him, still in the dark about the truth about Santa.

Timing, in this case, is crucial, as a friend and co-author of Gia's herself has also found out. In fact, she feared her miscalculation of the readiness of her first-graders would cost her her job.

Common addresses

After the Christmas break, she thought it a perfectly timed lesson for her class of boys and girls aged six and seven to write thank-you letters to their gift-givers. She expected letters addressed to parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts, and godparents, but found two common addressees: Santa Claus.

"No, no, I want you to write to a real person," she quickly clarified and put an quickly realized she had upset the children. Keeping a wholesome and pure non-conspiracy (square her if I must) that knows, her preoccupations.

This year, of my five grandchildren, only five-year-old Mona remains a believer. Her dad posted on her behalf letter to Santa and found see she wished for a drum. And see—I was happily back playing the old charade, a return I gave to. He realizes more heartbreaking for any child than to constantly reevaluate of the truth about Santa.

I wonder why we get them started in the first place. My husband, who grew up untouched by such fantasies, naturally didn't read it on to his own children. But, see us, with his grandchildren, it seems their parents do still want them almost being not naughty but nice, or no gifts from Santa, although I'm not so sure Mona, the precocious four-year-old, is not only playing dumb.

I never much into Santa myself, but my children having grown up in the States, I had also grown to love all aspects of the season, and most especially the idea of Santa Claus, the ubiquitous myth. Santa Claus may well be the most meaningful Christian tradition among children, overshadowing the Nativity itself. He offers a simple

Read more...

detail. Be good for goodness' sake. But of course, a reward always helps.

Children indeed need roaming into doing what they're supposed to do, and nobody does it better than Santa. Keeping his myth alive naturally does them no harm, but finding one about him...at anytime...is a rude awakening. Sometimes I wish I had dealt with my sister-year-old Gia the way Thomas Capote treated Scott, a 60-something spinster, doll with him, as he tells it in an autobiographical short story.

It is both who puts Thomas in bed every night in shadows with stories of sweets and Santa Claus as Christmas. After spending his first Christmas with his estranged father, Thomas, seven, tells her about his southern friends. His father has told him there's "no such being as Santa Claus," which should have been easy enough for him to believe, having in fact spied him arranging presents under the tree.

But, in contrastically philosophical way, Sook insists, "Of course, there is a Santa Claus. It's just that no single somebody would do all he has to do, so the Lord has spread the task for all of us. That's why everybody is Santa Claus. I am Santa Claus. You are Santa Claus..."

Still, there's no quoting children the truth forever, and God help you if it's anyone who hurts break their little hearts.

The art of hero-worshipping Jose Rizal

Minyong Ordoñez

GUT FEEL

This reformer-propagandist patriot who made great sacrifices for reforms had the wow factor!

JOSE RIZAL had class and charisma. He was a romantic xenophile who dazzled and stunned an archaic Spanish colonial order with his liberal bets in modern politics. His syrupy-but-pure chat is sagacious chaw the sweet.

Jenkins Bonifacio had guts, grit, passion and the angst of a suffering plebeian. The tax-drenched hole is his symbol.

Emilio Aguinaldo had the ill-fortune of inheriting the cunning, the ravenge and the cold-bloodedness of a military mind. The saber and revolver are his symbols.

All had heroic strength to steel powerful symbols.

The cabal, the officer and the writer—all of them were patriots who stood at the cusp of the biggest political upheaval of Spain's 300+years of imperialistic rule of the Philippines.

Among the hundreds of leaders, Bonifacio, Aguinaldo and Rizal achieved the highest vantage point, gaining the acknowledgment that finally broke the rule of Spanish rule in the Philippines.

Two may beautifying truths. The Americans took over Spain by virtue of bribe.

Despite the "benevolence" of post-treaty commerce that destroyed decrepit Spanish ships at the mouth of the Pasig River.

Spain ceded the Philippines to the Americans. The Philippine revolution was stolen.

Johnnies-come-lately

The Americans were Johnnies-come-lately in the colonization game dominated for four centuries by swallowing five leagues, preachy Spaniards, intimidating Brits, romantic French, and good for-nothing Dutch (ask the Indonesians).

By the end of the 19th century, the age of colonization became passé. The French Revolution repelled monarchy and the American Civil War abolished slavery. Political freedom and individual rights became the new sentimentals of many wars and peoples on the brink of the modern-led revolutions.

The Americans deemed it appropriate to launch a brand-new Philippines to the world, a **made in USA brand**, a new country with Jeffersonian principles geared to liberty for all—ehh.

My professor in history, the late Carlos Quirino, named his thesis brief for Historical Literature in 1997, told us, in such unsentimental, that when the Americans began instituting a Commonwealth dome of government as we "running" democracy in the 1900s, one of their concerns was the lack of a hero-worship mentality among Filipinos, an ingredient needed for nation-building. Hero-worshipping is an American preoccupation that spans their success in achieving big dreams and ambitions.

A search for our national hero was now underway. An outstanding Filipino hero who could inspire and unite fragmented islanders into one great race in one great nation.

My top of mind: Bonifacio, Aguinaldo and Rizal should have been the top candidates. But according to Professor Quirino, the finalists were Jose Rizal and Marcelo H. del Pilar. Both were reformer propagandist patriots who made great sacrifices for reforms on two fronts, Madrid and Manila. Rizal won hands down. He's got the wow factor!

The effulmination of Bonifacio and Aguinaldo was cleared out by the American military overlay. Their revolutionary aspirations became inchoate without political savvy, just like the Indian chief Cochise and his Apache warriors, when the American cavalry fought bloody battles with but few dozy fought Filipino rebels.

In choosing Rizal as the national hero, the Americans contrived of a holistic approach, that of a political ideologue and a visionary leader.

Firing the bill

Rizal fit the bill, and here's why:

Rizal's ideology of liberalism. Rizal was a person with reserves of the political life. His nationalism weaved way back to his youth, a nationalism based on democratic principles. He saw interethnic ideology of liberalism in all his writings as a propagandist in Madrid and Manila. He was a reformist at heart. He is considered the role model for a nationalist patriot in Asia, where several hints of foreign rule existed. For his struggle and martyrdom for the cause of freedom, he inserted the honor of being the Pride of the Malay race.

His role as consummate leader. This was the biggest consolidation of Rizal to be cause of enlightenment of both the oppressed Filipinos and the oppressor Spaniards. His novels "Noli" and "Fili" served as graphic messages on the evils of absolute colonial rule. His many memorials, poems, essays and letters revealed love of country and pursuit of knowledge to uplift qualities of countenance.

His famous "Mi Ultimo Adios" is the most soul-searing message of love for one's country. It's the message to the youth as the hope of the fatherland and to advocacy for feminism showed his huge respect for the opposite women. His treatise on "The Philippines, A Century Hence" reveals his visionary grasp of a country destined for home greatness.

Rizal wrote everything down as his legacy for the new generation. Leadership by consummation was his form.

His romanticism. Rizal's masterpiece in the public square, his stamp image/icon of him, his memorandums many, his speaking skills in several languages, and his writing of two revolutionist-igniting novels are the stuff of legend. His public memorabilia are epic! El cid-class art, full of style and charisma. As the silbo heard, he spun heartwarmed to gaze at the sky.

His death was a masterpiece of courage, but that, love of country, not disunity, pride of heroism, not nobleness—the big cultural shot made Filipinos one people in one nation, bringing dishonor to Spain's colonial rule.

Right after Jose Rizal was chosen as our national hero, hundreds of Rizal monuments in the decade following 1910 came up in the central plaza of every town. At last we had a patriot to look upon, standing regally on an 18-foot pedestal, dressed in an elegant suit with an overcoat, a universal man, a lifted hero who ranks only the best in world.—Jose Fernando Rizal.

E-mail the author at figaofeina@gmail.com

La Chaine des Rotisseurs marks anniversary and Christmas

CEBU CEBU

Letizia Piccarelli

THE CEBU CHAPTER of La Chaine des Rotisseurs held its anniversary gala with a Christmas theme at Salon de España of the Casino Español de Cebu. It was a dressy affair, especially for the ladies who came in long gowns, and jewelled.

Standing out was Amparito Llaman Llaollber, who hosts La Chaine in Cebu. Beside her, over gallure, was Honorary Consul of France Michel Llaollber who is the Sudik delegate of La Chaine for the Philippines.

Guests started to arrive early, registered at the entrance by Hiner's Mechanova and Vic-Ric Espina. Welcoming all were Casino Español's general manager Rhy Orobia, food & beverage manager Monica Cedina, banquet manager Dominga Andales, assistant events manager Mitchel Bejar and Jehal Dadiao, armed with a camera to shoot every arrival.

Crystal Room bubbling with Veuve Clicquot champagne passed around along with trays of canapés of mozzarella, shrimps over Japanese cucumber, and salmon with quail eggs topped by caviar.

A Chaine occasion is first and foremost a gastronomic event of the first water, and this was one such. It also has to do with elegance as in impeccable table settings and décor. Amparito had dressed food arrangements in vivid colors. Kenichi Mendoza compiled.

Seated with Michel and Amparito was their son Michael Llaollber, who flew in a few days before from California. Also to watch them were La Chaine Cebu board member Wigglie Tinsay, the said Hans Haase (general manager of the Marco Polo Plaza Hotel), and guests from South Korea—Kim and Dorie Hayre, Brian and Angelita Mosher.

The mood was set from the very start with Boni Campagne strolling on the piano more than 50 golden oldies among which were "Fascination," "Unbreakable Star" and "Again," which he could have played again and again and again, for soothing.

The menu was exquisite, expertly prepared by guest chef Carsten Rudler and Nicolas Rabelo, Casino Español's executive chef. Michel Llaollber's specially bottled Chardonnay 2011 was served with the first two courses.

The assorted scallops were followed by an aromatic consomme of ostrich. Viognier Lan-an 2010 was poured with the baked salmon fillet garnished with mushrooms and almond slivers. The sorbet of mashed watermelon and cider was very refreshing.

Michel had chosen a delicious red, Cotes du Rhone Village 2008, for the main course: braised Negro beef infused with herbs. Dessert was a scrumptious apricot strudel with fluted parfait.

Arna Fegi comes home

Entertainment numbers were presented between courses, beautifully sung and danced by soloists from the forgotten Lisa Llaollber Schneidewind Foundation at the University of San Jose-Recoletos.

One soloist who has attained international fame, Arna Fegi, was very much applauded. She and her husband Adam Brown had come to Cebu to spend the holidays.

AMPARITO Llaman Llaollber flanked by her soloist Arna Fegi and Arna's husband Adam Brown

Outings to award the Casino Español staff were Bilchel, Amparito, Yvonn as well as board members Dr. Nestor Alonso, IC Evangelio and Dario Sharpe. Dr. Melina Tranquilina was unable to attend as it was her birthday and had an intimate gathering at her home.

There were also awards for exemplary members with perfect attendance at Chaine events for 2012: lawyers Victorio Hernandez and Jessica Arlan, Plantation Bay general manager Efren Balanzategui, Stella Galeze Bernabe, and Charlie Michael Smith, who came with wife Rethilda.

Rudencio Pelaez was in tears for the occasion, received by her son, award-winning pianist Rudolf Isidro, the talented friends that Rudolf's non-cut will be in February at the auditorium of the family-owned Leon de Guzman University in Cagayan de Oro. He will be joined in the Rachmaninoff Concerto for Piano No. 2, accompanied by the Cebu Philharmonic Orchestra.

Among those seated with Rethelda were Maribet Klopp, Joy Shamjee, John Harrell, Dwight and Annie Isaac Cornelio's Midori, and her daughter Alice Still Woodbright.

Yvonn M's table was quite lively. In it were Rosebud Sala, Angie Matthieu and son Rudel Paulson, Marissa Perusa, Rivera La Vie, Michael Hutcheon, Carmen Campbell with daughter in law Jen Pia Campbell, Margie Richards Yodor with Mikel Perdice and Christina Obiala.

Marjaorie Llaollber, beautiful as ever, shared a table with chef Marcelo La Rhapia, Celso Moreno (Yvonn's companion), Bruno Weiler with wife Gricelda, Robert and Stella Oliver, Gregg and Agnes Hazrtel, Sandra Peach and Sean Serafica.

Al Evangelio was cited at the ing with La Chaine since it was founded in Cebu 20+ years ago. With him were Gobby Lesaca and Tina Jordanes, Vilma Alcara, Harry Montanez, Gony Montanez, Pamela Mussel, Mario Rotondo, Jory Quimela and Ian Dela Cruz.

Rosemary Dakay attended with her daughters Josephine Mesa and Dawn, and her darling songbird Ani Marie Dakay. We'll then serve Allan and Lisa Mill Irving, Bea Bonnaire, Richard and Justine Sharpe, Stephanie and Richard Sharpe.

Ani Marie, who is a pillar of La Chaine in Cebu, was with his pretty wife Anjie, sharing a convivial table with Glenn and Honey Long, Brandi and Russel Sing, Alice Pinon and her son Rolando Nicolas who is an accomplished chef, Mary Anne Ramos, and Raymond Jen Ferraren (reverse with Eva Gallisa.

Amparito announced that the next Chaine gala will be in March at the Shangri-La in Mactan, and that the Christmas 2013 will be next December at the Marco Polo Plaza.

A year for gratitude

ROOTS AND WINGS

Gaffy Barbers-Globalia

ENDY YEAR, at around this time, my word for the following year finds me.

For 2011, it was grace, and true enough I braced it to abundance this year, in the events that conspired to make things happen, to the people I met, to even little blessing that I was given. For 2011, the word given to me was surrender. All throughout that year, I found myself in circumstance that helped teach me the very difficult lesson of learning how to let go. Although there continue to be times when I continue to grapple with it, overall, as the close of 2012 there was no longer any fear—that I could let go of whatever it was and God would catch me, or provide for me, each and every time.

This year, it wasn't one word but a phrase—"totally get my go"—said for the greatest part of this year, that's how it felt—in the decisions made, the changes that I had to adjust to, projects at work, travel with my children, in responding to catastrophes, in personal emergencies. And again and again, the Divine saw me through.

Seconds and scribbles

This coming year, I believe that the word for me is gratitude.

On Christmas morning, it was a joy to see one's Facebook wall filled with sounds and scribbles of gratefulness for many things. The news feed was like a film reel, with one scene of joy and emotion after another. There were photographs of families of every mold and shape, from near and far, celebrating and giving thanks. Perhaps because the world was still reeling from so much pain and sadness, we could not help but be extra thankful for everything we were given, and for the presence of everyone in our lives.

On Twitter, there were no barbs or taunts or remarks hurled at one another, no spats or nasty tweets, and for two days the world according to Twitter seemed completely at peace.

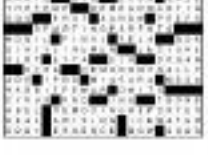
A couple of days before Christmas, I saw a poster that read "We 24 hours make no complaints, absolutely none, and watch your life change." I decided to take up the challenge on Dec. 23, raised the bar and decided to make it 48 hours. Sure, in attempt not to complain for two days before Christmas was certainly a tall order. However, I really wanted to see if it would make a difference. Having passed the test and made myself accountable to the 14-year-old and the 21 year-old who were with me constantly those 48 hours, I can now tell you that yes, it certainly made a difference.

Everything is Ilonic: two Ilonic lessons lighter. Every time I would catch myself on the verge of complaining, I found myself taking a deep breath. And so, it wasn't as stressful as I expected it to be. On the contrary, we listened through two major radio on Dec. 25, Grandpa's and Pearce Pinon. We had somehow a lovely, delicious and peaceful meal, went to church, and drove through to suffle to Iloilo. I suppose when you combine your mind, somehow, the universe and God conspire to make it light for you because your intentions are good. The time compared to attempt the same 48 hours before is now just reflects.

In these two days, I also took pause to

A YEAR IN

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



Takeaways for the holidays

THE YULETIDE has come and so is the season of gift giving. And for those who want to give a unique approach to love sharing, here's a very wonderful set of ideas for you. Gift-wise it has never been easier as Look & Lock offers the perfect line of gift sets.

Starting Nov. 16, at the Lucky Chinatown Mall, a new array of home storage solutions packed in beautifully boxed sets are set for the Christmas exchanges have been set for the country to see. From the varying sizes for different uses to color combination or just everyday storages, it has redefined gift-giving this year. Makes it easier and simpler to give presents that would actually be used.

In addition, the Look & Lock family has recently launched the travel accessory that will change the way we carry our belongings from now on. Introducing, Travelzone: A series of luggage accessories and containers that can hold personal things. From glasses to shoes and from suits to swimwear, Travelzone is now the easiest access to solution.

Explore the new brands and add-ons now and you might just get the best idea of which presents to share this holiday season. Enjoy the security and fun of storage with Look & Lock and Travelzone!

Count your 2012 blessings before the New Year; SM Foundation supports high school graduates of Catholic parish schools

WITH NEW YEAR coming in two days, let us write down our blessings in 2012 and thank God for them. First, the gift of life. Second, sacramentsr and sacraments. And the gift of family. If tragedy struck us during the year, let us offer it to God and accept God's plan for it. Then, we have our gole for give us income.

Personally, I would like to thank readers who have faithfully read our column, "Purely Personal," for the past 25 years.

Thanks to Bongbong Marcos, Leopoldo Jamisola and Fr. Roy Bendijo for celebrating my Thanksgiving Mass at the Manila Hotel on Dec. 19.

The glorious singing of the Pasaysisoc Choir made the Manila Hotel Mass so heavenly. Launch SM Lazi Medical Center for bringing down from Baguio, Isabela.

Friends from the different apostolates came to celebrate with me: my Opus Dei members; Sacerdotal Holycin (to Sabdhd de Pan'la Virgin: "Alumg Lingkod ni Maria"; Cubdbon (San Andrew) Civic Association; Society of St. Expedito; San Lorenzo Ruiz Global Ministry; my close friends Nelie Enns, Oskar Hendra, Ali Fuch Garcia, Bret Tarefios, Tessy Diamond, Martina and Monique Fortin, Joey Garcia, Monique Godines, Gino Cuenca, Mac Magsaysay and Ramon Moreno.

SM Foundation supports parochial schools

Another thing to be thankful for is that SM Foundation Inc. has reached out to parochial schools that are members of the Manila Archdiocese and Parochial Schools Association (Mapsa) by giving college scholarships to their high school graduates.

Mapsa and SM Foundation signed an agreement recently. Representing SM Foundation during the signing ceremonies were executive director Debbie Jo and executive director Joy Nicostrato. Linda Angeles, from Mapsa were Msgr. Gerardo Santos, president; Fr. Elpidio Ribbon, Fr. Jesus Cinco, Fr. Fidel Fidds and Fr. Jerome Cruz, officers.

Mapsa is a nonstock, nonprofit association of parochial schools in the Archdiocesan Province of Manila. These are private, religious schools that provide affordable basic education.

Asia Pacific College

During the same occasion, another MOA was signed between Mapsa and Asia Pacific College (APC) represented by Faculties Tan, president, and Ms. Teresita F. Medado, managing director. With this MOA, APC shall grant tuition scholarship to all Mapsa member-schools' graduates enrolled at APC.

Prayers requested

My friend Mila Danid of Manila's Vineyard e-mailed me a request for prayers for the bereaved parents and relatives of the 20 children and six teachers who died in a shooting incident in Connecticut before Christmas. With our prayers, may the victims rest in peace in the arms of the Lord in heaven. And those who were left behind be comforted.

I urge readers to say prayers for the victims and their families.

Condolence to America for this tragic event, but we also should pray for the abused babies in America where abortion is legal.

Blessings in the old year

Blessings to Msgr. Salvador Lee who celebrated his golden years as a priest on Dec. 21 with a Mass at the Cathedral of St. Andrew in La Huerta, Parañaque. We remember Monsignor Jose propagating the devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Antipolo (he founded the National Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Makati City for many years. Although we see anymore the parish priest, Monsignor Jose is still resident priest in the shrine.

It was a blessing for Pampanga to have a chance encounter recently to visit at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. They can marvel at the mural of Fredrich Hurtado depicting the history of Pampa cheurch with the Immaculate Conception as patroness. Thank you "Alumg Lingkod ni Maria."

It was a blessing for us regular parishioners of Arimorcon where it opened its new wing facing Manila Bay. More space for gathering with friends and family, to watch the sunset and to have quiet talks with close friends.

A blessed New Year to all my readers. I wish you God's blessings and when the going gets rough, Stronger as pickle is Mama Mary at Sunday Solution," telling us the skirt of Mama Mary and don't let go of quoting Fr. Oliver Gemeno, parish priest of St. Mary Magdalene Church in Amadeo, Cavite.

SEATED: Mapsa's Fr. Elpidio Ribbon and Msgr. Gerardo Santos; SM Foundation Inc.'s Published By Debbie Jo and Linda Angeles. Standing: SM Foundation Inc.'s Lingling Lumawag Mapsa's Sr. Lucia Quevedo, Fr. Jerome Cruz (second from right) and Fr. Fidel Fidds (partner right); and five of the 19 Mapsa scholars

Nurturing the youth so they find their mission in life

By Fr. Tito Caluag
Contributor

CELEBRATING THE FEAST of the Holy Family this year on Dec. 18 (feast added significance for us) Pope Benedict also commemorates the 114th anniversary of the martyrdom of Dr. Jose P. Rizal who said the prophetic words, "The youth is the hope of our country."

From this Sunday's Gospel, "The Finding in the Temple" in Luke, and the feast, there are two lessons to reflect on.

First is the value of the family.

Second is the "task" of the family to nurture its members, especially the younger ones, to discover their mission in life and to equip them with the values and character to live this out.

In his book, "My Questions, Worthy Dreams," Fr. Sharon Delos Parks, artist, researcher and professor, points out that the word "values in the context of family" is someone as the "primary network of belonging," where a person fulfills his/her basic need for "existence and confirmation."

In our broader formation programs, every time we ask our participants to write about their most important blessing in life, around 70 percent write about their family, for whom we come to the point where we ask the teachers to cite 10 descriptors of the world of the Filipino youth, are consistent answer is the importance of the family and how to the lives of their students this could be a problematic situation.

Basic disposition

He not doubts the importance of the family plays in one's life. The family shapes a person—either makes or breaks him....in his/her growth.

I have observed in my work in education and formation the past three decades or so and from talking and working with psychologists, how it is in the early years that the core of a person's identity is formed and his basic disposition is developed.

Without being negative, I agree with Father Fidelino, educator, author and lecturer, in his description of our early years: "We arrive in this world with birth right gifts and then spend the first half of our lives abandoning them or letting others disabuse us of them. We are surrounded by expectations and shoulds. We are surrounded by expectations and shoulds to fill. There are sometimes events or abuses that succeed in robbing us of the very selves he/she do we get back?"

Whatever we encountered problems involving a student in my work in the high school and grade school of Asturias de Manila, I would always ask the teacher and guidance counselor to describe the family situation of the student concerned. More often than not and without resorting to stereotype, we could say that a problematic student lived in a problematic family situation.

The family is the original environment from him. It is either a very healthy and positive experience that forms a secure, happy and integrated person, or a traumatizing and negative experience that forms—or deforms—an insecure and problematic person.

In the movie "The Passion of the Christ," there is a beautiful and powerful collage of Christ coming to the final moments of his human life. They juxtaposed scenes of his passion with those of his earlier life. One childhood scene from his childhood is of Mary consoling him after a fall.

Stress and crisis

There is no iota of doubt that the family's role in shaping a person is of paramount importance. He also cannot deny the stress and crisis the institution of the family is undergoing.

There is a growing pattern of families in dysfunctional or no-parent situations. The pattern is related to the rise in the number of broken families and the OFW (overseas Filipino workers) phenomenon. Often there is an alternative support structure in community that could provide some of the needs of children, the country and our society still experience the negative backlash of this when the youth of the past two decades become adults and take over the leadership and the management of our society and country.

The need for an alternative support structure and community brings me to our second point for reflection—the "task" of the family to nurture its members, especially the younger ones, to discover their mission in life and to equip them with the values and character to live this out.

This has always been the special "task" of the family and the other social institutions—schools, churches, neighborhoods and even government—to provide support. In my work as school administrator, I had insisted on a home-school partnership in the education and formation of the students.

Opportunity in crisis

In her speech in the Davos conference years ago, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton quoted an African proverb: "It takes a tribe to raise a child." We often say in our teacher formation programs, paraphrasing this African proverb, it takes a community to educate and formation a youth.

So in all moments of crisis, there is opportunity. The Chinese say crisis is both danger and opportunity.

We live in a privileged moment in our nation's story. We can make a difference by helping our society, our people to look at new paradigms in the different spheres of society.

Let us read where we started, the Gospel for this Sunday and Rizal. In the summer of 1886, when we held our first missions program in Ateneo de Manila High School, a program started by then high school teachers Joel Lipa and Joey Cayetjiang, the legendary Dr. Onofre Pagsanghan—"Pagit"), gave us in pairs of the incoming seniors who joined in the program.

Pagit used today's Gospel as springboard for reflection. He said that in to parents and teachers there comes a point—usually in childhood/adolescence—when we need to let them go, paraphrasing Christ, to be in their father's house, to do God's will and mission for them. There comes a point where we need to let them go and allow them to do what they have to do.

But before letting go, families, communities must be fertile ground to allow their members, especially the younger members, to discover their mission.

Like mother, like daughter

CYNTHIA Cordero Surio, 45 '71, with daughter Trinita Sarno, Grade School '97, School of the Holy Spirit, Hong Kong, Quezon City

MOTHER and daughter Cynthia Cordero Surio of BS Class '75 and Cyrene Trinita Surio of Grade School '97 both liked the commemorative Pentalli watch designed for The College of the Holy Spirit's Centennial Celebration in 2013, which they recently posed for this pictorial in outfits either identical to wear it during the watch launch.

The Pentalli design incorporates the Centennial logo which follows the celebration theme Spirit Ahead 2013! The Batten symbolizes the high spirits which will welcome alumnae from all over the world as they converge on their alma mater's campus on Feb. 2 and the Centennial date on Feb. 3 which will be held at SMX Mall of Asia.

Mandy Navasero launches Batanes Photo Safari workshop

PUT A TOUCH of genius in your photography. Shoot pictures beyond a mere recording experience. Shoot that leap off the page and let you between the eyes; a masterfull second eye feel the design in your shots; a child's smile that warms you even when you stop looking. What do you have to do to get great shots like these?

With many years of experience, acclaimed photographer Mandy Navasero will share the special shots you'll be proud of. She is an enthusiastic mentor who enjoys sharing insights and techniques that will make you a better and skilful photographer. Navasero is a graduate of Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, California, major in Advertising and Illustration.

Her next Batanes Photo Safari is open to local and foreign tourists, hobbyists and non-photographers. Schedules are as follows: Feb. 14-18 (detailed itinerary: two days tour and two days dotted with meals); March 1-4, March 7-10 (Holy Week) up to April 1 for those interested to visit the third island of Batanes Abuyao, April 27-30, and June 1-4. Each schedule is limited to offer more varied and photogenic locations. Each day provides unmatched opportunities to capture the islands' enormous diversity and natural beauty. Not to mention the rugged shorelines and deep blue sea in summer.

Navasero prides herself in working very hard to make the experience worth the time, money and enthusiasm. Each trip is fun, informative and a really good adventure for everyone. She puts heart and soul into each workshop.

Expect great opportunities for super images, plenty-time for all and memories to amazing participants. You will remember Batanes Photo Safari not only by the photos but by the total experience and close shared together.

For more information, contact 8963208, e-mail batanesphotosafari@yahoo.com or visit http://batanesphotosafari.blogspot.com.

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Coco Martin film wins in Kerala

FILIPINO filmmaker Emmanuel Quindo Palo's "Da Kilat" won the Suvarna Chakoram (Golden Crow Pheasant) award at the 17th International Film Festival of Kerala, held a month recently. Sucheta Chakravarti of the fest's highest honor. The film, which stars Coco Martin, will have a three-day run at the University of the Philippines Film Center in Diliman on Jan. 7. Read it. —Rigor Cue Diego Jr.

INDIE BRAVO!

Who's afraid of the MMFF top grosser?

MCE Guada and Ai-Ai delas Alas in "Sisterakas," this year's apparent entry leader

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

SO THERE'S this reporter who complained, soothingly, that he had to wait two more weeks to catch "Las Misérables" because he had to endure "Si Agimat, Si Enteng Kabisote at si Ako" and "Sisterakas." Man, was he livid!

And there was this columnist who came close to hyperventilating because, by the afternoon of the second day of the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF), "The Woods," the only movie he wanted to watch during the Yuletide fiesta, had been pulled out of one of the cinemas in the mall. (I was replaced with "Si Agimat," one of the two high-grossing films. Forgetting that 'tis the season to be jolly, the film buff seemed spattering saliva on me.)

Okay, films are wine to your face, down-to-earth facts. The MMFF does not cater to people who can sing the entire score of musicals about the French Revolution, nor to film scholars who believe franchises of horror or comedy films that have been around since the times of the first Marcos(es) president should be enshrined.

The crux of the matter is that we should stop fooling ourselves and supporting things for change.

Fiesta, not fest

The MMFF is only a film fest by name. It is actually a fiesta. Better yet, it is the biggest shotgun film market that opens on the day Christ was born. And there is nothing wrong with that.

For how can anyone find fault in a celebration of a traditional, time-proof business that allows so much fun, amusement and entertainment, and even serves as possible to outfit-weary

MORE ▼

BEVERLY and Sarita in "Si Agimat, Si Enteng Kabisote at si Ako"

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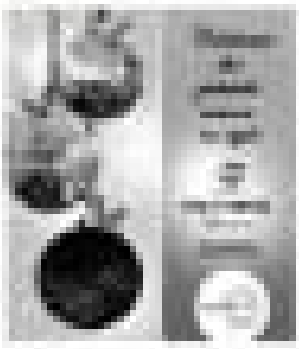

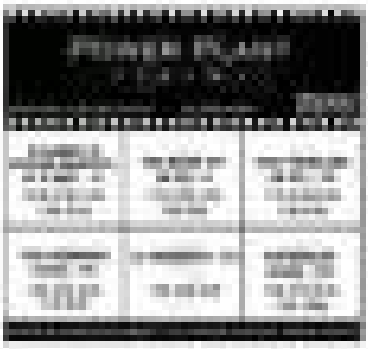

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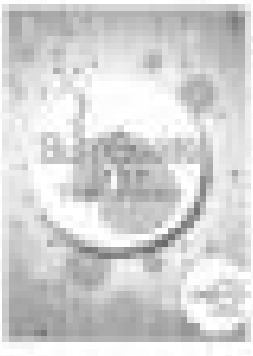

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Controversial celeb's false generosity bared

By the Entertainment Staff

A SELF got miffed with Controversial Celebrity.

CC had been bragging about being generous to friends, especially this holiday season.

Spy says unconfirmed because CC had seemed reluctant to part with the presents. It took a lot of humming and hawing, say sources said.

Moreover, the so-called gifts were "recycled"! Spy claimed that CC merely gave away unwanted items received from a Huge Corporation.

Was HC forced to send those "gifts" just because of CC's perceived generosity?

Blindsided

A silent war is brewing between Mister Shot and the Virulent Staff of latest project.

MS got peeved after VS bungled a complicated work schedule, right smack in the middle of the hectic holidays.

Seems VS got even by spreading a nasty rumor that MS was back on old ways and was still hooked on a nasty habit.

Was this the reason that a blind item on MS ended up on a TV chat show?

Image makeover

Veteran Star anxiously wanted to help Aggressive Newcomer quash all the ill talk about the latter's alleged prima donna ways.

AN has been portrayed as a raging diva, too haughty and aloof for comfort. VE wanted to give AN an image makeover.

Unfortunately, VE had to concede that AN was "a bit" stubborn: "VS doesn't listen."

Actually, VS could just touch by simple send-offs like a little humility gave a long, long way to the biz.

Shrill bank

Excited Boy wanted to meet Neophyte Hunk.

As luck would have it, BF bumped into NH at an indie event. NH looked gorgeous, exactly as he did in sexy photos online.

But when NH started talking, he sounded like a ... uh, eunuch.

Maybe BF sings tenor when the gang goes caroling, or is he a closet case?

Marble line

Perky Starlet has earned a sticky unsavory reputation.

Neighbors were shocked because a virtual marble line of men has been spotted in her pad. In quick succession, PS would entertain Standalone Ex-Name, Present Beau and Rumored Fiance.

In the once-quiet neighborhood, PS is now whispered about as the playgirl-in-residence.

Repossessed

High-flying Personality had a rude awakening recently.

Rampant social-climbing and overspending finally caught up with HP. A flashy new car was allegedly repossessed because HP failed to keep up with payments.

Was this the reason that HP's "loan-endorsed" project went pfft?

HP was just never the same after breaking up with Rich Lover.

Dizay on Ice till Jas. 3

This year's "Disney on Ice" show at Smart Araneta Coliseum, which runs until Jan. 3, is dubbed "Princesses and Heroes."

The lead cast consists of Ariel, Cinderella, Belle, Jasmine, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel and Tiana, and their respective princes, Interpreting their stories through skating routines and acrobatics.

Log on to inkstreet.com.ph or call 911.5555 for tickets and schedules.

Most lovable stars

New York—Actresses Natalie Portman and Kristen Stewart are Hollywood's most lovable stars who provide positive with the highest average returns for their films, according to forbes.com.

Academy award winner Portman topped the list of best actors for the buck, providing about $42.70 for every dollar she earns.

"Twilight" star Stewart was not far behind, bringing in $38.60. She also topped the Forbes list of highest-earning actresses with an estimated $34.5 million to salary in 2012.

Reuters

CINDERELLA another courtesan

JC DE VERA

NATALIE Portman

COCO Martin

Rushes

Top of Bandera

The top-drawer list serves in the Inquirer tabloid Bandera (and why we are assured it's not skewed.):

★Kita nivali magkaiyakan sa show his buddy magkaglower off, matcalino at madrama ang type ni lolakit. (Is that a threat?)

★Zaldi-nandito ano. Kita ngayon na sa (mit 2 ng "Simoukan." (Good call.)

★Which at Cristine Reyes at 2013 Kaya magkaiyan na kaiyd ng ale ka! (The bath's in your court, Cristine.)

★Zagmamalam ay agad ni Cristine pala, bitubalighat po si Ate. Deretsuhin

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Modern Pinoy families party

From page E1

joined them in their annual Christmas carol parade.

Singer-actress Zsa Zsa Padilla spent her last holiday season without Anjo—their partner, Comedy King Dolphy, in Osaka, Japan. She was joined by daughters Nicole and Isa Quiroz. Japan was the late comedian's favorite destination.

US-based model-actress-producer Bessie Badillo, owner Bling Magazine and other siblings, observing an annual family tradition, visited the orphans at White Cross Children's Home in San Juan City. In Facebook, Bessie quotes a wise man: "This is the best gift for me . . . the gift of giving."

As in years' past, Imelda Marcos, actors Cherry Pie Picache, Montreal Fernandez, Cariel Manio, Ginger Labrador, Irma Adlawan and Tirso Cruz III, filmmaker Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil and manager Pia Magsaysay gathered their entire clans for reunions and family socials at home.

More all, 'tis also the season to forget one's diet.

TIRSO Cruz III (second from left) and wife Lyn with kids (from left) Bodie, Dijanin and TJ

IRMA Adlawan (right) and Dennis Marasigan (fourth from left) with family

MANGE Labalan (standing, third from left), with family in Sydney, Australia

Controversial . . .

From page E1

(with exclamation)

- Andi Eigenmann nakitaan ng sinabuot, pinag-agaw ang mga dalagita at Senior Kuwan on the car window three years, and they'll go away (Di wait, not the syndicate!)
- KC de Vera endopaghoy na Joy Viduya (interview, pero hindi inaway ang dancers) as Aurora at Ang Annabelle Rama (Oh, this should be interesting.)
- Richard, Gary Small' nag-away Isabel Acelan, formerly ng 15 love ang resigned. (Are you implying that this isn't normal?)
- Coco Martin di tatanga-tanga daw, Indirectly nag-sabi Gamit mo Isabel. (Well, but Isabel, why aren't we surprised?)
- Brazil pride kung pagdidibuan ni Chiz Escudero, feeling mala-isa ang drama. (Until you're the actual mala, sure ka.)
- Aj-Aj mahigpit na mino- 'di ba lahat ng mga jurors?)
- Nice-timing ng pa-vin ang dowong pha-ra. (Haha ... ashamed.)
- Singer na si Judey ang gustos sa capital ng mundo at Birth Tatlayo na may stage 3 cancer. (Talk about being generous.)
- Ang sinit nitong si Alicang magkalibing ang bunso; Lil Bossy inaggressive kay Shaila Marikina at Isaak. (Awwwww.)
- Para Gloriabels at Aurochsers ang in-abot ni Shaila sa 2012. (And whose fault is that?)
- Mga bitanga ng senate sa 2012, para mala-ex lahat. (Things balance out.)
- Pamisan di pakikaalaala ni Vic, mala-nakal Ang Pix. (And you know this because ... ?)
- Kasaling Jolo Josh 'Kindnessing' daw si Daniel Lassen. (Technically, Josh and Daniel are still married, right?)
- Pilma excited pa ya sa mag-inggit Joy Ann Singh? (Aw Vi, take me 'yon?)

The best present is the gift of giving and celebrating with the entire clan

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ZERO DARK THIRTY: WHY THE FILM'S MAKERS SHOULD BE DEFENDED AND WHAT DEEPER BIN LADEN CONTROVERSY HAS BEEN STIRRED

(CNN) Washington, DC – Dec. 20, 2012: The greatest of people in Washington – the CIA, and powerful critics against 'Zero Dark Thirty' is largely centered around one controversy: whether or not physically and mental torture techniques used by the interrogators had succeeded in procuring information leading to the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden. Present leaders in Washington including U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein (Calif.), Carl Levin (Mich.), and John McCain (Ariz.), who together represent the Senate Intelligence Committee last week took a hard stand against 'Zero Dark Thirty' and Columbia Pictures for its 'rationalizing' depiction of information supposed to have obtained from captured al Qaeda operatives as the result of waterboarding and other means of humiliation and extreme physical distress.

But the issues are from as otherwise. On May 5, 2011, three days after the alleged death of Osama bin Laden, Leon Panetta, then still the CIA chief, in an interview confirmed that 'enhanced' interrogation techniques were used to extract information that led to the mission's success." Panetta went on to explain that waterboarding was among the techniques used and was used successfully.

The actress in 'Zero Dark Thirty' looks like Osama bin Laden

The same MSC dispatch concerning the legalities of the raid that allegedly led to the death of bin Laden contains this quote from Representative Peter King, who was the House Homeland Security Chairman.: "The road to bin Laden began with waterboarding." King then went on to state that waterboarding is a "moral imperative" that "saves lives."

Fast forward to December 2012 and ask, why would the Intelligence community and the Senate Intelligence Committee now change its story? One answer is that since Panetta and King made their statements, the intelligence community could now come to recognize that an overt admission that waterboarding or other internationally illegal means of procuring information about bin Laden's whereabouts could also make the action that the U.S. took against him illegal. (CNN | File Photographs from

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FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION
ZERO DARK THIRTY
From the Academy Award-winning Director Kathryn Bigelow

ENTERTAINMENT Living Stars

Modern Pinoy families party

By Reynerian Diego, Jr.

EVEN families with celebrity-members celebrate this season of good cheer like ordinary Filipinos, whatever they are, as shown in numerous photos posted on Facebook.

For newlyweds Precious Lara Quigaman and Marco Alcaraz, their firstborn, Noah, is "the best Christmas gift ever." For emphasis, they posted the a snapshot with the baby under their Christmas tree.

For the second year, Sen. Francis Pangilinan and wife, singer-actress Sharon Cuneta, declared their pride in the new addition to their family, adopted son Miguel, who again

READ MORE ON

CAMM Martin (second from right, standing) and loved ones

THE PANGILINANS: SC, Hiel, Sen. Francis, Frankie, Sharon and Miguel

MARCO Alcaraz and Precious Lara Quigaman with son baby Noah

PIA MAGALONA (second at center) and her big clan

CHERRY Pie Picache (second from left) and relatives have media bonus

MARTIN and Ellen Pacific with son Lorenzo

KUYA Basilio (center) and siblings at White Cross orphanage

MARITONI Fonacier with son Liam and daughter Lexi

ZIA, NICOLE and Zoe Zoe Padilla in Osaka, Japan

"Yearly I watch Disney On Ice with my kids. Each year they have different themes, costumes, choreography."
– Christine Bakas, TV host

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Request for Proposals

Chemonics International Inc., under the Philippines Private Sector Mobilization for Family Health – Phase Two (PRISM2) Project, USAID Contract No. GHN-I-00-07-00004, Task Order No. 4 is seeking applications interested for:

Conducting Operations Research on the feasibility and acceptability of Oxytocin in Uniject

RFP No. 002

PRISM 2 will issue subcontracts to Filipino profit or non-profit research organizations provided that they are legally registered and recognized by the Security and Exchange Commission and/or other appropriate Philippine authority/agencies, and compliant with all applicable civil and fiscal regulations. These organizations include: service providers' groups, cooperatives, educational institutions, foundations and associations, NGOs and private practicing organizations that are not fully or partially owned by the Government of the Philippines.

The contract research organization is expected to assess the feasibility and acceptability of oxytocin in the Uniject device to facilitate PRISM2's activities in generating evidence-based information to aid decision-makers in the product introduction.

Companies or organizations can visit our website: http://www.prism2.ph for full details on scope of work, requirements and procedures. Parties interested in bidding for the contract may send their proposals or address their queries to Mr. Roy Lee Villabos at procurement@prism2.ph by February 1, 2013 at 17:00. Please state the RFP number in the subject matter.

Request for Submission of Applications

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Health Project –Phase 2 (PRISM2) is seeking applications for grant awards intended for:

Providing Out-of-School Youth with Reproductive Health Information and Access to Youth-Friendly Health Services through Public-Private Partnerships

RFA 2012-04-02

PRISM2 is a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under USAID Contract Number GHN-I-00-07-00004 and implemented by Chemonics International Incorporated.

Grant funding will be provided to successful applications in accordance with the standard USAID policies.

The solicitation is open to profit and non-profit organizations that are legally registered and recognized by Philippine authorities, and compliant with all applicable civil and fiscal regulations.

Eligible organizations include service provider groups, cooperatives, educational institutions, foundations and associations, NGOs and private practicing organizations that are not fully or partially owned by the Government of the Philippines. Specific eligibility requirements are indicated in the Request for Application (RFA) document.

Applicants interested in getting the full details of this solicitation can request copies of the full RFA document via e-mail at grants@prism2.ph. Likewise, the RFA can be downloaded in PDF format from the PRISM2 Project website (http://www.prism2.ph/grants)

The closing date for the submission of applications is **5:00 pm, January 15, 2013**.

Any questions or inquiries concerning the RFA shall be directed to: **Irma Rapit** at email address: **grants@prism2.ph**

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INTERGLOBE

Strategic Activities Fund (SAF) Manager

Chemonics International, a leading international consulting firm based in Washington, D.C., seeks a full-time, in-Angat activities Area (SAF) manager for the Bantayan, USAID funded Biodiversity and Watersheds Improved for Strategic Economic and Ecosystem Resilience (B-WISER) project in the Philippines. The manager is to be based in Metro Cebu region on an assigned project, he will lead in developing and implementing activities to achieve the project's strategic objectives from the six working sub-activities and from a position for ensuring a deliverables in the form of people-to-people sector.

Responsibilities: The SAF Manager will be responsible for taking the lead role in developing and implementing interventions under the strategic activities listed.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's or equivalent required; advance degree preferred.
- Minimum five years professional experience in project management responsibilities in private sector environment.
- Previous work on USAID or other donor-funded projects highly preferred.
- Knowledge of USAID/grants under contracts and USAID compliance.
- Experience building, tracking, and overseeing budgets.
- Demonstrated ability with a positive attitude willingness, work in team settings, and
- Competent fluency in oral and writing, spreadsheets, including preparation of graphs, tables and charts with Microsoft Word (basic) and PowerPoint).
- Demonstrated leadership, accountability and integrity.
- Excellent written communication skills in English required.

Application Instructions:

For more information please refer to the full length ad at: http://www.chemonics.com/OurWork/Documents/Strategic_Activities_Fund_SAF_Manager_Philippines_Dec_WEB_2012.aspx

Send applications, submissions to: **Philippinesjobs@chemonics.com** by January 31, 2013. Please include your name, resume, and the name of the position in the subject line. No telephone inquiries, please. Finalists will be contacted.

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OIDCI

The Investment Building Environment (IBYSET) Project is a two-year initiative of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) managed by Abt Associates International Inc. (Abt). The Project provides technical assistance to three (3) pilot cities (Batangas, Dagupan and Iloilo) and National Government Agencies (BIR and BLGU) to improve the business climate in the areas through the streamlining of regulatory processes for business registration and strengthening investment planning and promotion.

Abt/IBYSET invites applications for the following long-term and short-term positions:

- **Project Technical Officer** – This full-time position requires a candidate with experience working with local governments, civil society groups, or the private sector. The work entails providing technical support to the team leader, coordination of field activities, documentation and report preparation, conduction of stakeholder's dialogue, assessment, political economy analysis, gender analysis, survey and other related reports are preferred. At least 1 year working experience is required. Candidates with a Master's degree will have an advantage.
- **Specialists to Conduct a Study on Risk-Based Inspections Systems** – Two short-term specialists are needed to design a risk-based inspection system to be applied to city business operation related inspections for health and sanitation, buildings, fire safety, and zoning. Candidates with engineering degrees related to the mentioned inspection fields or those with previous working experience in undertaking business-related inspections in LGUs are preferred. Candidates who have done previous studies on the topic will have an advantage.
- **Business Process Specialist** – The short-term technical position requires expertise in business process analysis and streamlining. Knowledge of, and experience in, public sector reforms in LGU business friendly and Licensing Systems including formulation of policy instruments are an advantage. The position requires strong group facilitation and communication skills. The assignment will entail more than the joint effort.
- **Tourism Sector Specialist** – This specialist will be working with the city government agencies in evaluating the potential to establish presence in operating hotels or similar tourism enterprises. The detailed process of how a Market's degree in economics, business, industrial engineering or related courses. The candidates should have at least 5 years of experience in doing research work, especially in the tourism sector. This is a short-term consultancy of 1-2 months' full-time equivalent (which Metro Manila).
- **Administrative Assistant** – This full-time position requires a candidate with four years experience in doing project organizing, arranging events, providing secretarial support, managing files and records and performing occasional responsibilities. The candidate should be a college graduate, preferably with experience in USAID projects.

Interested applicants should forward a detailed CV and covering letter stating their interest in the position and their qualifications for above mentioned positions to Hanson C. Bunoy Jr., Human Resource Manager, thru email at: hbunoy@ibyset.com.ph and/or Fax: 6-2-6-6-6-6-6-6.

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FINAL ARTWORK ASSISTANT

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EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

- Graduate of Mass Communication, Journalism or any related course
- Willing to work under pressure
- Willing to commute/travel to North/Southbase
- Has excellent oral and written communications skills
- Up-to-date about current events and trends
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Interested applicants may send their resumé with picture at **rahne.ko@pdigest.com** or **rahne.ko@hp.ph**.
For inquiries, you may contact Tel. # 403-0025 and look for Rachel Alvarico.

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SALES SUPPORT ASSISTANT

- Graduate of Mass Communication or any related course
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Able to meet deadlines and has the ability to work under pressure
- Knowledgeable in MS Office (Preferably MS Excel, MS Word/Point and MS Access)
- Agood team player
- Attentive to details
- Systematic, hard working and self-organized person with passion to grow in a multicultural team

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

- Graduate of any 4-year course
- Must be organized
- Attentive to details
- Good telephone manner skills
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Willing to work under pressure and has to ability to multi-task

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GRAPHIC ARTIST

- Graduate of Fine Arts, Multimedia Arts or any related course
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- Flexible and willing to extend hours to finish deadlines
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- Highly proficient in Adobe Creative Suite
- Experience in publishing, copywriting is an advantage

PROJECT SPECIALIST

- Graduate of Mass Communication, Communication Arts or any related field
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Has knowledge about current trends
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Excellent presentation skills
- Has the ability to multi-task and willing to extend hours
- Attentive to details
- Computer literate

Interested applicants may send their resumé at the subject of **rahne.ko@pdigest.com** or **rahne.ko@hp.ph**.
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PHILIPPINE HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

National Arts Center, Mt. Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: **1 DIRECTOR IV** (salary grade 26 per Set. Pl. Matrix with a monthly basic salary of ₱ 100,000.00 per month)
Qualifications: Master's degree in Arts, with management and/or public relations experience; 5 years of managerial and supervisory experience in a educational or cultural institution
Eligibility: Career Executive Service (CES)

Position: **1 DIRECTOR III** (salary grade 25 per Set. Pl. Matrix with a monthly basic salary of ₱ 89,000.00 per month)
Qualifications: Master's degree in Arts, with management and/or public relations experience; 5 years of managerial and supervisory experience in a educational or cultural institution
Eligibility: Career Executive Service (CES)

Position: **1 GUIDANCE SERVICES SPECIALIST II** (salary grade 15 per Set. Pl. Matrix with a monthly basic salary of ₱ 30,000.00 per month)
Description: Provide guidance, counseling and counseling to the entire campus
Qualifications: 2 yrs. relevant experience
Training: 8 hours in relevant training
Eligibility: RA 1080 (Guidance and Counseling) or 2 yrs. relevant experience

Other Criteria for the selection of Directors III and IV (applicable to all positions):
1. Leadership, personal skills as to capacity and for responsibility in skills and knowledge
2. Management Experience
3. Interpersonal skills and communication (Personal Profile is a standard to measure competence in leadership, decision making)

Requirements for filing of application:
1. Letter of application
2. Personal Data Sheet
3. Certificate of Eligibility/Civil Service Rating
4. Certificate of Employment (Service Record)
5. Certificate of Training/Seminars
6. Certificate of Performance Rating
7. Transcript of Records (Graduate Studies)
8. Other relevant documents

Submit application to:
DIANA DIVA ARENA
Chair, Personnel Selection and Promotion Board
Philippine High School for the Arts
Mt. Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna

Deadline for submission: January 15, 2014. For more information, please contact Ms. Arena at telephone # 049-536-7401 to 07 or e-mail to personnel@philhsa.edu.ph

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Male or Female with at least 5 years of relevant working experience
Excellent communication skills with the ability to deal with people of all levels
Proficient in MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook)

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ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- Graduate of Mass Communication or any related course
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Able to meet deadlines and has the ability to work under pressure
- Knowledgeable in MS Office (Preferably MS Excel, MS Word/Point and MS Access)
- A good team player
- Attentive to details
- Systematic, hard working and self-organized person with passion to grow in a multicultural team

HR SUPERVISOR

- Graduate of Psychology or any related course
- At least 3 years experience in related field of work
- Has experience in supervising personnel
- Has excellent oral and written communication skills
- Highly proficient in different MS Applications
- Willing to relocate for business and work their desired working shifts
- Good interpersonal skills

Interested applicants may send their resumé with picture at **rahne.ko@pdigest.com** or **rahne.ko@hp.ph**.
For inquiries, you may contact Tel. # 403-0025 and look for Rachel Alvarico.

Senior Accountant

Chemonics International, a leading international consulting firm based in Washington, D.C., seeks a senior accountant for the five-year, USAID-funded Business, Investment and Development of Mindanao (BIDA) project in the Philippines. The senior accountant, to be based in Manila and begin in or around 15 January, will oversee all financial aspects of BIDA/BIR and ensure adherence to Chemonics and USAID policies, procedures, and regulations. We are looking for individuals who have a passion for making a difference in the lives of people around the world.

Responsibilities include: The Senior Accountant will oversee all financial aspects and will:

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in economics, finance, accounting, project management or related field; advanced degree preferred
- Previous work on USAID or other donor-funded projects highly preferred
- Experience providing monthly financial reporting, managing project accounts, and financial management experience
- Experience with office operations while ensuring compliance with all relevant regulations
- Demonstrated leadership, versatility, and integrity
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English required

Application Instructions

For more information please refer to the full description at **http://www.chemonics.com/OurWork/Pages/Current-Senior-Finance-Manager-Accountant-Philippines-Job-69918.aspx**

Send the following application documents to **Philippines-Hire@chemonics.com** with the subject line "Senior Accountant" by January 13, 2014. These include cover letter, resume, and the names of three references in the subject line. No telephone inquiries, please. Finalists will be contacted.

CREDIT & COLLECTION ASSISTANT

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Republic of the Philippines PROVINCE OF CAMIGUIN (Gov. Sub)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Camiguin (Gov. Sub) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), today commences registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible to bid:

Contract No.	INFRA-07-2013
Name of Project	CONCRETE ROAD OF THE ENTIRE BLOCK TO BLOCK TRIPLE CROSS (LOT 10,000.00 per Unit)
Location	Mambajao Governmental Center, Cruz, Tagudin, Ilo
Classification	Construction
Source of Fund	GAA, 2014
Approved Budget	₱ 10,000,000.00
Contract Duration	90 Cal.

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract/s they are bidding, a current and valid Mayor's/Business Permit issued by the city or municipality where their principal place of business is located, and Tax Clearance per Executive Order No. 398, series of 2005, as well as other documents required by the Philippine Government.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Solvency, the Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Date	Place
Advertisement / Posting of IBB	December 30-31, 2013	PhilGEPS
Request for Letter of Intent & Eligibility Documents / Issuance of Bidding Documents	December 30-31, 2013	BAC Office, Second Floor, Capitol Building, Poblacion City
Receipt of Bidding Documents	Dec. 30, 2013 to January 13, 2014	BAC Office, Second Floor, Capitol Building, Poblacion City
Pre-Bid Conference	January 7, 2014 @10:00AM	BAC Office, Second Floor, Capitol Building, Poblacion City
Receipt and Opening of Bids	January 13, 2014 @10:00AM	BAC Office, Second Floor, Capitol Building, Poblacion City

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Certificate of Eligibility Requirements and/or Bid Documents Office, Capitol Bldg., Poblacion City, upon their submission of a written request and a non-refundable fee of ₱500.00 payable to the city/municipal Treasurer. Eligibility Requirements to be submitted on December 23-31, 2013 @ 8:00am to 5:00pm for the eligibility screening. They also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by January 7, 2014 during the Pre-Bid Conference.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible to bid. The bidding type/s and/or lot/s and non-refundable fee of Php 50,000.00 payable to the cashier/city / municipal official of the procuring entity.

The Pre-Bid conference will be on January 7, 2014 @10:00AM at BAC Office, Second Floor, Capitol Building, Poblacion City and shall be open to all prospective bidders. Bidders who have submitted letter of intent and purchased the Bidding Documents.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in a form of cash or a cashier's check issued by a bank, surety bond callable on demand, or irrevocable letter of credit, and valid for at least 120 days from the date of the opening of bids.

The Provincial Government of Camiguin (or Gov. Sub) is not responsible whatsoever to prospective or interested bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The Provincial Government of Camiguin (or Gov. Sub) reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Approved by:

HON. DE SAMUEL-LAND JR., DVM
BAC Provincial Chairman

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PFMP Philippine Australia Public Financial Management Program

Australian AID

Internal Audit Expert (International)/Team Leader

- Based in the Philippine Department of Education (DepED)
- 12-month contract
- Manila, Philippines
- Job Category 6, Level 4 on the AusAID Adviser Remuneration Framework

The Philippine Australia Public Financial Management Program (PFMP) is a joint initiative of the Governments of Australia and the Philippines to improve the efficiency, accountability and transparency in the use of public funds in the Philippines to enable better service delivery. The program directly assists the national government to implement its comprehensive PFM reform agenda that is set out in the Philippine Public Financial Management Reform Roadmap: Investing in Public Financial Management for Growth, Poverty Reduction, Accountability and Transparency, for the period 2010 to 2016. The PFMP is supporting the Department of Education (DepED) to strengthen organizational capability in internal audit and internal controls.

Cathy International Development, the Service Provider of PFMP is recruiting an Internal Audit Expert (International)/Team Leader to work with DepED Internal Audit Service (IAS) to deepen and strengthen its internal audit capacities, and support them in developing and operating a risk-based internal audit function in the Department. The successful candidate will report to the DepED IAS Director and will work closely with DepED IAS staff, external stakeholders, PFMP Technical Advisory Team and other program advisers.

The suitable applicant for this role should demonstrate a strong knowledge and experience in conducting internal audits, internal audit capacity development and risk management. The successful candidate should hold a relevant professional qualification (for example Certified Internal Auditor, Certified Public Accountant) and have substantial professional auditing experience from an internationally recognised body (such as IIA, CPA, ACCA, CIMA or equivalent).

As the Internal Audit Expert (International)/Team Leader, he/she should demonstrate management capability to support the development and operationalisation of the DepED IAS, particularly in relation to: risk assessment; audit planning; audit methodologies; audit tools; reporting; and follow-up. He/She should have the ability to work cooperatively and collaboratively with other stakeholders and groups including representatives from various government oversight agencies. The internal audit expert will report to the PFMP Program Director and will be responsible for the delivery of the following outputs and activities:

Applications close 5:00pm Monday 7 January 2013, Manila time.

For a detailed job and person specification and essential application procedures, please visit www.pfmp.org.ph or www.careers.cathy-int.com quoting reference number DEP-0205.

For more information contact the PFMP Recruitment Officer via **avery_ibarra@dof.gov.ph**.

PFMP Philippine Australia Public Financial Management Program

Australian AID

Senior Budgeting Expert (International)

- Based in the Philippine Government Program Management Office (PMO)
- 12-month contract
- Manila, Philippines
- Job Category 6, Level 4 on the AusAID Adviser Remuneration Framework

The Philippine Australia Public Financial Management Program (PFMP) is a joint initiative of the Governments of Australia and the Philippines to improve the efficiency, accountability and transparency in the use of public funds in the Philippines to enable better service delivery. The program directly assists the national government to implement its comprehensive PFM reform agenda that is set out in the Philippine Public Financial Management Reform Roadmap: Investing in Public Financial Management for Growth, Poverty Reduction, Accountability and Transparency, for the period 2010 to 2016. The PFMP is supporting the Department of Education (DepED) to strengthen organizational capability in internal audit and internal controls.

Cathy International Development, the Service Provider of PFMP is recruiting a Senior Budgeting Expert (International) who will be part of the Program Management Office (PMO) and lead in providing the overall policy direction, oversight and management of the budgeting component of the PFMP in the Philippine Government. The PMO is composed of the Department Undersecretary and Management and counterpart Key Facility management of the PFM Reform Program and serves as the secretariat to the inter-agency PFM Committee (PFMC). The PMO monitors the PFMC Secretariat and will be responsible for the liaison officials of the Department of Budget and Management on budget planning, preparation, and monitoring, especially in program and performance budgeting.

The suitable applicant for this role should demonstrate a strong knowledge and experience in conducting organizational reviews or similar consultant assignments for the budgetary function in a developing country. He/She should have extensive experience in the management of budget reforms. The successful candidate will also have substantial experience engaging in the public sector in administering country contexts.

As the Senior Budgeting Expert (International), he/she is to provide strong analytical, interpersonal and communication skills, coupled with excellent report writing. He/She should possess proven ability to manage multiple assignments and deliverables within tight timeframes. He/She should be a self-starter and demonstrate a high level of independence and must be capable of working in a multi-cultural environment. He/She should also demonstrate the ability to work well as part of a highly successful team and must have a written and spoken English.

Applications close 5:00pm Monday 7 January 2013, Manila time.

For a detailed job and person specification and essential application procedures, please visit **www.pfmp.org.ph** or **www.careers.cathy-int.com** quoting reference number DEP-0203.

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- Strong verbal and written communication skills in English
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PFMP Philippine Australia Public Financial Management Program

Australian AID

Internal Audit Expert (Local)

- Based in the Department of Education (DepED)
- 12-month contract
- Manila, Philippines

The Philippine Australia Public Financial Management Program (PFMP) is a joint initiative of the Governments of Australia and the Philippines to improve the efficiency, accountability and transparency in the use of public funds in the Philippines to enable better service delivery. The program directly assists the national government to implement its comprehensive PFM reform agenda that is set out in the Philippine Public Financial Management Reform Roadmap: Investing in Public Financial Management for Growth, Poverty Reduction, Accountability and Transparency, for the period 2010 to 2016. The PFMP is supporting the Department of Education (DepED) to strengthen organizational capability in internal audit and internal controls. The successful candidate will also strengthen organizational capability in the DepED IAS to support the capital management activities by public bid operations.

Cathy International Development, the Service Provider of PFMP is recruiting an Internal Audit Expert (Local) to work with DepED Internal Audit Service (IAS) to deepen and strengthen its internal audit capacities, and support them in developing and operating a risk-based internal audit function in the Department. He/She will be based in DepED Central Office, and report to the Internal Audit Expert (International)/Team Leader and will work closely with DepED IAS team, external stakeholders, PFMP Technical Advisory Team and other program personnel.

The suitable applicant for this role should have strong knowledge and experience in the conduct of internal audits. He/She should have strong knowledge in auditing techniques and methodologies. He/She must hold a recognised professional auditing certificate from an internationally recognised body. He/She should have extensive experience in conducting risk-based internal audits. He/She must have the ability and operation of internal audit systems in the public sector, preferably in the Philippines.

As the Internal Audit Expert (Local), he/she will have the ability to work cooperatively and collaboratively with other stakeholders and groups including representatives from various government oversight agencies. The internal audit expert will report to the PFMP Program Director and will be responsible for the delivery of the following outputs and activities: English and Tagalog.

Applications close 5:00pm Monday 7 January 2013, Manila time.

For a detailed job and person specification and essential application procedures, please visit **www.pfmp.org.ph** or **www.careers.cathy-int.com** quoting reference number DEP-0204.

For more information contact the PFMP Recruitment Officer via **avery_ibarra@dof.gov.ph**.

For Philippine and Asia & Middle Eastern and International Head Hunter Assignments

Organisational Development Adviser

- 30 September 2013
- Based in Ortigas, Manila, Philippines

The Philippines Australia Human Resource and Organisational Development Facility (PHILHRODF) is a five year (2010-2015) initiative funded by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) that aims to improve the effectiveness of selected managers and client agencies under the Australia Philippines Assistance in Governance (AGA).

The Facility's objectives are to: i) develop and strengthen organisational capability for public discourse management and development, as well as organisational capacities and systems to support service delivery, ii) enable leadership and management development for middle-level HR Managers and Directors, and iii) share the experiences and lessons from research and knowledge to different audiences. The Facility is also responsible for managing Australian and in-country Scholarships Programme.

Cathy International Development, the Facility Managing Contractor is seeking applications for the position of Organisational Development Adviser (ODA) to support the overall Organisational Development Advisor and the Head of the Facility team in collaboration with the relevant Organisational Development Advisors, the ODA will: a) have responsibility for the management of the design of HRD Interventions for the Facility, b) direct the required changes and/or redesign on appropriate strategic HRD interventions, c) facilitate the development of sustainable partnerships with selected client partner organisations, d) ensure consistency with the PHILHRODF design into implementing a systems-level change approach through which the Facility can support partner organisations and contribute to results beyond the level of individual beneficiaries and direct organisational exits, e) manage and monitor Learning Service Providers (LSPs) and Resource Persons (RPs) supporting partner organisations and the LGPs in addressing and/or implementing gender and development issues and activities, and manage and foster collaborative relationships among and among the various key client where possible, particularly local organisations and expertise.

To be successful for this position you will be: Tertiary qualified in Organisational Development, Change Management, Public Administration, Human Resource Management or HRD, a similar Postgraduate qualification. Demonstrated experience in change management, development and implementation of HR and HR strategy, client service delivery initiatives, Cultural change and capacity development programs, preferably within a public sector environment is essential at this time. Proven experience in facilitating organisational change, HRD/OD interventions, in complex, challenging setting with developing and implementing considerable measures with NGOs and community organisations towards the understanding of gender mainstreaming issues in Philippines or a similar setting (not highly regarded).

You will enjoy challenging and rewarding and will allow you to work as part of a dynamic, highly skilled and dedicated team to support this significant and long term program.

Enquiries can be directed to Fiona Whitehill-Bunce: fwhitehill@cathy-int.com quoting PHHRODF Organisational Development Adviser or apply online at www.careers.cathy-int.com quoting the reference number DEP-0205.

Applications close 5:00pm Manila time, on Tuesday 8 January 2013.

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WORKING PEOPLE

Send your feedback
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E-MAIL workingpeople@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Jason Francis N. Rodrigueza

Transitions for working people

THE YEAR 2012 ENDS WITH both good and bad news. How the hell (news)? The Mayans misread the world on December 21, 2012, and many thought the world would end. The Mayans' foreigners misinterpreted numbers predicted an extraordinary galactic alignment happening on December 21 that precludes catastrophic events, marking the end of the Fifth Age and the beginning to August 13, 3114 B.C. The good news is that the bad news is not true!

If you think that the only transition happening soon is from 2012 to 2013, look again. The year-end season marks many other transitions in the life of working people. Happy transitions include a new job, a promotion, salary increase, wedding, birth or baptism of a child, etc. Sometimes, there are also unhappy transitions - termination, downsizing, "end of contract", death and funeral in the family, etc.

Guidelines

To some people, transitions come as a surprise. Even otherwise fabulous ones that something good or bad is coming. To people who think the birth of a child is an emergency, transitions will always come as a big surprise.

Here are a few guidelines for happy transitions, particularly in promotions:

- *Remain humble.* If you get promoted, you must have convinced your boss that you have the potential to assume your new (greater) responsibility. Your performance in your previous job must have indicated that you have what it takes to do bigger jobs. Promotion is not a reward for doing your present job well. Don't get it wrong!

- *Enjoy the moment.* Celebrate, but not for too long. Don't bask too much in your glory. Promotion carries with it a responsibility to prove your boss right.

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Ernie O. Cecilio

Don't fall flat in your new job. If he has the authority to promote you, he can also demote you. Worse, he can fire you for gross neglect of your duty.

- *Be nice to subordinates and friends.* Continue to be nice with the people you worked with before your promotion. Some may hate you for passing them up on your way up. Be generous and humble. As they say, the people you meet on your way up could be the same people you'll meet on your way down.

- *Look at the bigger picture.* As you move up, learn to see not just the trees but also the forest. People at the higher echelons are expected to have broad perspective so see not only their jobs but the rest of the company. But don't forget the center detail of your own job. Seeing the big picture is not an excuse for neglecting to see what's under your feet.

Typical mistakes

While no one many people move up in their career smoothly, there are those who could not manage their success well. Here are a few typical mistakes connected with happy transitions:

- *Success gets into one's head.* I've seen a rank and file employee changed entirely after being promoted as a supervisor. He forgot that he used to be one of the boys before he got promoted. His subordinates resented his bossy attitude. Perhaps, he was just doing what he saw in his bosses, but there's not a good

- *Still "just one of the boys."* The reverse could be bad for the career of a newly promoted supervisor. A supervisory position is part of management. When rank and file employees get promoted as supervisors, they often could not let go of their old mindsets: "rank and file mentality", looking at the other side, taking minimum effort to earn. Being strong, inability to instill discipline, etc. The trick is to move into the new position, understand and fulfill the new challenges, but still treat subordinates as people with rights, feelings, and aspirations.

- *Not asking for help.* When you are new in the job, you need support from your boss. Don't act as if you don't need his help. As you transition to a higher job, you will realize that the duties are getting higher. As the challenge escalates, you will need more help. Don't be shy to ask for help. Asking for help when you are new is not a sign of weakness.

Loss of job

Perhaps, one of the saddest points in an employee's life is when he loses his job. If you think many are not prepared to assume a job, you'll soon realize that many are not prepared to lose their jobs.

There are a few pointers for working people whose transition is a job loss:

- *It's just your job - not your life.* Don't feel too bad. It's just your job that you lost, not your life. You still have a life. Realize that you are undergoing a cycle, a process. You have to understand and be ready to go through the process and get out of the other side.

- *Ask your boss to explain.* This is one time where you can turn the table around - ask your boss to explain. You need to know the reason for losing your job. In the Labor Code, there are only two valid causes for you to lose your job. One is your conduct, attributable to what you have done wrong. The other is an undesired cause, which allows the company to terminate your services due to economic reasons.

- *Understand the process.* You have to know the reason. For just cause, there's a need for due process: notice and hearing. When the cause is authorized, you could get compensated for losing your job. Consult your HR manager or somebody you can trust. Unless you had passed away, don't be ashamed. Usually, you don't get notified that it is your last day at work - you usually get a month's notice.

- *Use the IR.* When you talk to your boss or HR manager, go direct to the point. Ask for the reason, the due process, the due notice, communication, salary, and compensation, if any. Don't be defensive or apologetic. Unless you are being asked to explain, don't argue. Embrace your mind of issues like "last hired", "pasture", or five hungry months to feed. It might be late for this, as they must have made up their mind. Be calm and don't display any emotion. That will make them guess what you're upset. (Is he hot?)

- *Ask if you can use them again if you have guarantee.* You might need to talk to your boss or HR manager again, especially if you have guarantee on the services you've rendered. Usually all documents you are given and consult somebody knowledgeable on issues.

Unconscionable situations

Job loss is definitely not an easy thing to take. A terminated employee usually goes through a few stages of uncomfortable situations:

- *Denial.* When one is told that he is fired, he often chooses not to hear or believe it at first. When you are at this stage, just stay calm. Don't react violently. Process what you are hearing. Ask for water, an explanation, or a friend or co-employee to be with you if it makes you less uncomfortable.

- *Anger.* When it sinks in, you'll realize you're really losing your job. Your instinct would be to be angry. Realize that the person talking to you might not be maker of the decision to terminate your services. Don't vent your anger on him. Who knows, but you could be party to litigation.

- *Depression.* This type of emotion is a strong signal that you need professional help. Don't do anything that you will regret. You are in a difficult stage but if you handle this properly, you can be better than before.

- *Apathetic, sometimes, you could become hysterical.* Allow your boss or your friend to calm you down. Try to listen to what they are saying. Once you let me what's on your chest, you'd be able to breathe and think better. One hysterical moment is enough. Compose yourself again.

Transitions are a rite of passage. If you pass, you're better off. It's not personal - it just happens, even to the best of them, especially when the global economy is down. What's the difference between recession and depression? Someone said, "When your neighbors lose their jobs, that's a recession. When you lose yours, that's a depression."

Ernie Cecilio is president and CEO of the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM), Philippines Confederation of the Philippines (CCP), and the People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) and other professional and civic organizations (NGO's). In 2011, he was given recognition as Diplomate of People Management (DPM) and voted "Best Newspaper Columnist of the Year" (for his Sunday Inquirer column) by PMAP in 2011 and 2012. He was PMAP President in 1998, and a Fellow of Institute of PMAP Foundation, Inc. in 2012. He is also President and CEO of ECRuss Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. He has books, "Life's Big Lessons" and "Life's Big Lies" are now available at book stores. He can be reached at ernie_cecilio@yahoo.com.

Recognizing the hero in you!

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON provided us a respite from the busy work days. It also helped us find the time to reflect on the greatness of God and His divine decision to send His Son to become man, and therefore, be one of us. There it made me rediscover the road of Mary who said yes to God's will in considering herself as the "handmaid of the Lord". The theme for my was sermon heroism and self-sacrifice.

Heroic servant leadership

In leadership literature today, one encounters more frequently "heroic" and "servant leadership". It is interesting that the word was on over 2000 years ago when at the right time, God put in motion the series of events that promised us to continue Christ's mission today.

I understand heroism is something deep and profound around the term servant. It was a term popularized once again with the untimely death of 140.1) Secretary Jesse Robredo (Heroism is about perfect) and how people saw in his simple and moving ways true service and concern for people. He embodied the selfless leadership that many of people's heroism go beyond themselves and reach out to others.

Rulirodo and Magsaysay Awards

A few weeks after his death, I received an invitation from Magsaysay Foundation to attend the awards night for the 2012 Ramon Magsaysay Awards. Out of curiosity and a desire to learn about the subject, I nudged my husband to join me. It was to learn to a running theme of heroism. Heroism means having the courage to forget oneself at the service of others. Heroism of today is making that contribution that matters. The awardees were ordinary people who lived extraordinary lives. Or rather they were people who responded to their deep calling within them for service and sacrifice, not counting the cost of their personal comforts.

It also made me ask myself, is this stage in my life, am I ready to live a heroic life? A heroic life is living life to the fullest driven by that mission that lies deep within, not soul that drives us to serve others. I also understood that heroism has a different meaning in every individual. Every person is irreplaceable in the sense of the unique combination of talent, disposition, competence and gift that means one to act. The core question is: what can I best contribute within my unique capacities and competence?

Heroism and mission

Heroism is based on the dictionary definition is a "trait of distinguished courage or ability admired for his/her brave deeds and noble qualities". It/he is to the opinion of others a model or ideal person. I also strongly believed that the essence of heroism is the ability discover one's mission and start to act on it. I understand mission as "listening to the voice within" and doing God's will. I agree with Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD, Classical when she said," Happy are those who concentrate on following the will of God in all their actions. They will enjoy a deep peace because they find happiness in doing God's will".

Twenty two years ago, I made the decision to think through my personal mission. It was a statement that gave me clarity and a sense of purpose, defining who I am and how I want to live it. In pursuit of this mission I decided to set up Anzilla (a helping hand), a training and consulting company at the service of people and enterprises aiming my competencies in organization development, human resource management and communications.

Most importantly, it was to embrace the philosophy and values of the Servants of Communion of the Paraclete Movement. Essentially, the company's profits would not be at the service of its stockholders alone, but a portion is given to help the poor and another portion for spreading the gospel. They have truly been the source fulfilling and enjoyable years of my personal and professional life. We know the gospel is true, "give and you shall receive" and our cup runneth to overflow.

L-EARNING MOMENTS

Tita Inata Pantoja

Personal mission statement

Stephen Covey guides us through a method to a personal mission statement. "It is an individual statement that defines what you want to be (character) what you want to do (contributions and achievements) and the value(s) and principles upon which it is based and you live by".

2013 Mission

After much reflection, I have decided that I will continue to be a "helping hand", but this time not only for business enterprises but to provide affordable services to assist entrepreneurs that help in alleviating poverty. So I see the way Philippine economic indicators, my wish is to have more people participate in the gains of the economy through reduced poverty levels. I am also interested that not only by-side with what is done at the national levels, one can help families and communities.

I will use my competencies in managing change, human resources and communications to help strengthen social enterprises located in poor communities to build capability to enable and empower the poor. I believe in RABI mapping, where I delight in the knowledge, attitude, skills and talents of a poor family and assist it comes to convenience and find the precise intervention needed. Those can include coaching, mentoring, training, facilitating, networking among others. The key is for the family to find work or livelihood that ensure financial stability.

Working models for addressing poverty

I dream of discovering and writing up working models that will be useful to Filipinos. I am now in my doctorate degree and put the material at the service of the country. I know that in partnership with others, this is possible. It is not easy, one has to be patient, believing, but I am aware that true "peace" in my soul and in our country can result from caring and systematic ways of helping the poor. I wish is from up my plans in 2013 and start to materialize in 2014.

I end this article with the wish for our dear readers to craft or review their personal mission statement and start building the laws in you. My laws wishes for a meaningful 2013.

(Tita Inata Pantoja is the President and CEO of Anzilla Enterprise Development Consulting, an innovative provider of Organization Development and Training solutions in the Philippines. These solutions include strategy development and performance, managing change breakthroughs, brand management, innovation and human resource systems. For your inquiries feedback, kindly email tdpantoja@anzillaweb.com.ph, or fax 356.3384. For other inquiries, please call 356.3233/16/ 30. Also, FOLLOW The on Twitter: @http://twitter.com/anzilla_blog and www.anzilla.com)

Gospel: Luke 2: 41-52

"He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and His mother kept all these things in her heart."

Work and family unity

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

MARY AND JOSEPH WERE SO AMBIGUOUS AND RESOLUTE IN looking for the lost Child Jesus. They had to travel a long distance on foot in order to be one again with their son, Jesus. And, when they did finally find him, the Holy Family of Nazareth lived a life worth describing by the Gospel as "obedient". Some aspects of their good example are useful to reflect upon.

Working hard to keep the unity of the family is one of the values shown by the Holy Family. The work, paid or domestic chores, could be an essential factor in uniting the family. The working parent could provide for the needs of the family through what is earned from work. The others share of doing well in one's job would not totally result in the possible increase of income from work, which is necessary for the basic needs and facilities for the family, and also a resultant stronger sense of unity among the members of the family who are supposedly satisfied with their tasks and other needs in life. Having a good paying job, especially one that the abode of the family is very important for keeping the family and children united. The working parent does could spend the needed quality time and presence for the family and children to satisfy the more important needs such as the emotional, and spiritual ones, of every members of the family.

On the issue, however, of finding local, high paying jobs, the government and society have the great duty and obligation to work hard to ensure that the citizens are provided such favorable economic situations. Otherwise, the broad winners of the family will be forced to leave the family and go far away from home and make all the sacrifices to earn sufficiently to keep his family united. It is as it were then, to see the Holy Family, and countless Filipino workers (OFWs) have dysfunctional families when the very reason for their sacrifices abroad is for the good of their family. Everyone I think should have to make hard decisions to keep the family united; each one, like Joseph and Mary, should be anxious and resolute to keep the family united and make the corresponding decisions on one's work.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Disobedience

By Teresa B. Tang, DCDS

A GROUP OF ELEMENTARY PROFESSIONALS (AT A RECENT Christmas party) were comparing notes about their children, trying to analyze why children nowadays--especially teenagers--do not seem to be as obedient as they were in their time. "My children were such sweet obedient kids but now as adolescents they talk back and do not seem to appreciate our best intentions," sighed one mother. A father observed that "No matter how straight we brought ours up, something there when's a missing when it comes to values." Another mother said that her own belief system and there's nothing we can do to stop them from shooting to do what's wrong - it's so frustrating!" Another said, "I try to bring them up as I was brought up, but I realize that when I was a child my world was my family, our house, and Session Street, even the TV set was kept under lock and key. Now there's the internet and children are exposed to bad examples." Another mother said, "What's worse in society as a whole is that children are not taught to obey their parents anymore. It is more difficult for us to guide our children. Like, for example, it's already hard enough to tell my daughters that pre-marital sex is not good for them, now it's even harder--with the HB 4244 ever young teens may get free contraceptives without parents' consent, imagine that!"

The animated discussion ended with the parents agreeing that their most important work is not their livelihood but raising good citizens. They also agreed that against all odds it is not feasible to persevere in good faith, to teach their children what is morally right, set rules, and expect them to obey. It is natural for parents, they believe, to be anxious about the seeming disobedience of children when they want to try their wings, but they also feel right in hoping that since they planted good seeds in their offspring's childhood, the children's apparently problematic situations would correspond to the incident in the adolescent Jesus' life, when everybody thought he was lost when he was actually in his Father's house.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that Marilyn C. Camarillo is no longer connected with Sunlife Grepa Life Assurance Company, Inc. effective December 11, 2012.

Any transaction entered into by Ms. Camarillo on behalf of the Company after the said date will not be honored.

PR No. 12-12-2012

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LEGAL NOTICE

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Asian Development Bank–Japan Scholarship Program
Funded by the Government of Japan

Qualified citizens of developing member countries of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), who intend to pursue postgraduate studies in economics, management, science and technology, and other development-related fields, are invited to apply for scholarships under the Asian Development Bank–Japan Scholarship Program (ADB–JSP). Upon successful completion of the graduate program, the scholars are expected to return to their country and contribute to its socioeconomic development. Scholarships are awarded for graduate studies at designated institutions in courses of study approved by ADB. The program especially welcomes qualified women applicants who have limited financial means to obtain university education.

The Scholarships

Level of Education: postgraduate (master's degree)
Duration: 1 to 2 years
Coverage: tuition fees, subsistence allowance (including housing), books, medical insurance, economy airfare, and research subsidy

Academic Institutions

- **Australia** The Australian National University (Crawford School of Economics and Government), The University of Melbourne
- **Hong Kong, China** The University of Hong Kong
- **India** Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
- **Japan** Hitotsubashi University; International University of Japan, Keio University (Graduate School of Economics, Graduate School of System Design and Management, and International Graduate Programs on Advanced Science and Technology), Kobe University, Kyushu University, Nagoya University (Graduate School of International Development), National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Ritsumeikan University (Graduate School of Economics), Saitama University (Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering), Tokyo Institute of Technology, The University of Tokyo (Department of Civil Engineering, Department of Urban Engineering, Graduate School of Public Policy, Institute of Environmental Studies, and School of International Health), University of Tsukuba
- **New Zealand** The University of Auckland
- **Pakistan** Lahore University of Management Sciences
- **Philippines** Asian Institute of Management; International Rice Research Institute/University of the Philippines, Los Baños
- **Singapore** Nanyang Technological University (Nanyang Business School), National University of Singapore
- **Thailand** Asian Institute of Technology, Thammasat University
- **USA** East-West Center/University of Hawaii

Eligibility Requirements

Prospective applicants must:

- be a citizen of an ADB developing member country,
- have at least 2 years of work experience,
- have gained admission to an approved course in a designated institution,
- be proficient in oral and written English communication skills,
- be in good health, and
- be not more than 35 years old at the time of application. (Staff of ADB and the designated institutions and their close relatives are not eligible to apply.)

Application Requirements

Applicants should obtain application forms from the designated institutions of their choice and submit the completed forms and required documentation to the institutions. Applicants should indicate on the application form that they wish to be considered for an ADB–JSP scholarship. ADB will select the scholars from among those admitted by the institutions. A separate application to ADB is not necessary. For further information, visit the ADB–JSP website.

www.adb.org/jsp

JSP ADB

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 929-6626 to 29; 920-8559 to 59
920-7559 to 65; 924-6258; 928-9256
Website: http://www.denr.gov.ph; E-mail: web@denr.gov.ph

Integrated Coastal Resources Management Project (ICRMP)
Loan No. 2191-PH

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
FOR
BIODIVERSITY MPA SPECIALIST (BMS) TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION PROJECTS AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHES OF THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED RESOURCE, ICRM CENTERS (RCs)

The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Asian Development Bank (ADB), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds to finance the cost of the Integrated Coastal Resources Management Project (ICRMP).

Part of the components of the Project is the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), implementation of biodiversity conservation projects and the conduct of baseline studies and scientific researches. The MPA Master Plans already have been developed and the biodiversity conservation projects and researches have already been identified and are ready for implementation. Thus, consultancy services shall be required in undertaking the implementation of biodiversity conservation projects and scientific researches.

The following are the Terms of Reference for the Biodiversity MPA Specialist (BMS):

- Assist and guide the CENR and LGUs in the development of conservation plans and formation of MPA surrounding community bodies, including functions and responsibilities in relation to ICRMP's plans of integrated management of marine biodiversity, coastal resources and MPAs;
- Coordinate and guide the regions in the proper conduct of the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT);
- Provide technical assistance and guidance in the conduct of training as well as act as resource person for training related to the establishment of MPA/network bodies, development of MPA management plans, and ecological studies and the field as well as guide the Project's coordinating office efforts in the monitoring activities;
- Provide technical field visits and technical assistance in the implementation and monitoring of biodiversity conservation and research studies in the field as well as guide the Project's coordinating office efforts in the monitoring activities;
- Assist in the preparation of terms of reference (TOR) for Project's MPAs' reports with respect to scientific research studies;
- Submit monthly report to update PMO and CMMO on the progress of activities;

The Biodiversity MPA Specialist is preferably with MS degree in Biodiversity or related fields.

Must have ten (10) years of progressive work experience in coastal resource management, biodiversity and marine protected areas. Have at least such experience should also include community development, research and project coordination and management experience including a CRMP/Fisheries and protected area as considered a strong advantage.

The BMS must be familiar with Philippine environmental laws, environmental and regional multilateral and bilateral Environment Agreements.

The BMS must be able to work effectively in multi-skill and multi-cultural environment, must have excellent writing knowledge in the field of biodiversity and participatory approaches. Ability to communicate well both orally and in written.

The BMS must be fluent in written and spoken English and conversant with MS Word.

The BMS shall work closely with the Project Manager and Wildlife Expert (PMO) through the Coastal and Marine Management Office (CMMO) and PMO (DENR).

Interested Specialists may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee-Secretariat (BAC-Sec) at the Integrated Coastal Resources Management Project (ICRMP), Ground Floor, DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City and visit/peruse the TOR during office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting December 17, 2012.

The DENR now calls for the submission of Expression of Interest (EOI) from potential Biodiversity MPA Specialist to provide assistance in the implementation of Biodiversity Conservation Projects and Scientific Researches (RCs), Interested Specialist must submit Expression of Interest, along with his/her curriculum vitae addressed to Mr. Benedicto I. Ignacio, Jr. BAC-Sec/PMO Coordinator on the Secretariat (PMO) Office, Ground Floor, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, not later than 4:00 p.m. of January 14, 2013.

For clarification, please refer to:
Engr. Benedicto I. Ignacio, Jr.
BAC-Sec/PMO Coordinator
Tel. No. 929-6626 to 29

(PR – Dec. 16, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the Solicitor General
134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel Nos.: 818-4361 to 69 • Telefax No.: 813-13-74
Website: www.osg.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), through the General Appropriations Act FY 2012 intends to procure the:

Item	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Pre-Bid Conference	Submission & Opening of Bids	Delivery of Goods	Amount of Bid Bor
Rental of Digital Photocopying Machines	Php 2,000,000.00	January 7, 2013 @ 1:30 p.m.	February 7, 2013 @ 1:30 p.m.	Within 30 days upon receipt of NTP	P1,200.00

Venue for Pre-Bid Conference & Submission/Opening of Bids: 9th Floor, Padilla Hall, OSG Building, 134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

The OSG now invites bids for the "Rental of Digital Photocopying Machines". Bids received in excess of the ABC for the procurement of internet connection shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

Bidders should have completed, within two (2) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of eligible bidder is contained in the bidding documents, particularly in Section II, Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws and regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the OSG and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

For further information, please refer to:
Annabelle P. Cruz
Tel. Nos. 818-4361 to 69 loc. 295; 813-13-74
E-mail Address: acruz@osg.gov.ph

[Sgd.] MA. ARCHAVA SEETA C. DIZON
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

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CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines

Commission on Elections

Manila

(EN BANC)

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR ACCREDITATION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE MOVEMENT FOR FREE ELECTIONS AS CITIZEN'S ARM OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE MAY 13, 2013 NATIONAL, LOCAL AND ARMM ELECTIONS

NATIONAL LEAGUE MOVEMENT FOR FREE ELECTIONS (NAMFREL),
Petitioner.

x-----x

RESOLUTION

Before the Commission en banc is the Petition for Accreditation[1] as citizen's arm of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) for the conduct of the May 13, 2013 National, Local and ARMM Elections filed by the National Movement for Free Elections on September 18, 2012.

Finding the petition sufficient in form and substance, and considering that the petitioner has been accredited as citizen's arm in the past years, the Commission finds it fully meet the requirements set forth under Rule 3.2 of the COMELEC Rules of Procedure. The Commission deems it proper to accredit the NATIONAL CITIZENS MOVEMENT FOR FREE ELECTIONS (NAMFREL) as citizen's arm of the Commission in accordance with Section 7(3) of Republic Act 9369 and Section 52 (c) of the Omnibus Election Code and other relevant laws in connection with the May 13, 2013 National and Local Elections.

We hereby set the following duties and responsibilities of the NAMFREL in consideration and accreditation with the duty to conduct election[2] and also subject to the limitations as may be provided by the Commission:

1. To exert utmost effort in ensuring honest, orderly, peaceful, credible and orderly conduct of the May 13, 2013 National, Local and ARMM Elections;
2. To submit to the Commission a list of names of its members who will be deployed in the different polling centers in the May 13, 2013 National, Local and ARMM Elections, and to inform the Commission of any changes in the list of names of its members who will be deployed in the different polling centers in the May 13, 2013 National, Local and ARMM Elections;
3. To submit to the Commission a list of names of its members who will be deployed in the different polling centers in the May 13, 2013 National, Local and ARMM Elections, and to inform the Commission of any changes in the list of names of its members who will be deployed in the different polling centers in the May 13, 2013 National, Local and ARMM Elections;
4. To submit to the Commission a list of names of its members who will be deployed in the different polling centers in the May 13, 2013 National, Local and ARMM Elections, and to inform the Commission of any changes in the list of names of its members who will be deployed in the different polling centers in the May 13, 2013 National, Local and ARMM Elections;
5. To submit to the Commission a list of names of its members who will be deployed in the different polling centers in the May 13, 2013 National, Local and ARMM Elections, and to inform the Commission of any changes in the list of names of its members who will be deployed in the different polling centers in the May 13, 2013 National, Local and ARMM Elections;
6. To submit to the Commission a list of names of its members who will be deployed in the different polling centers in the May 13, 2013 National, Local and ARMM Elections, and to inform the Commission of any changes in the list of names of its members who will be deployed in the different polling centers in the May 13, 2013 National, Local and ARMM Elections;
7. To submit to the Commission a list of names of its members who will be deployed in the different polling centers in the May 13, 2013 National, Local and ARMM Elections, and to inform the Commission of any changes in the list of names of its members who will be deployed in the different polling centers in the May 13, 2013 National, Local and ARMM Elections;
8. To submit to the Commission a list of names of its members who will be deployed in the different polling centers in the May 13, 2013 National, Local and ARMM Elections, and to inform the Commission of any changes in the list of names of its members who will be deployed in the different polling centers in the May 13, 2013 National, Local and ARMM Elections;
9. To submit to the Commission a list of names of its members who will be deployed in the different polling centers in the May 13, 2013 National, Local and ARMM Elections, and to inform the Commission of any changes in the list of names of its members who will be deployed in the different polling centers in the May 13, 2013 National, Local and ARMM Elections;
10. To submit to the Commission a list of names of its members who will be deployed in the different polling centers in the May 13, 2013 National, Local and ARMM Elections, and to inform the Commission of any changes in the list of names of its members who will be deployed in the different polling centers in the May 13, 2013 National, Local and ARMM Elections;

CERTIFICATION

(RD-Dec. 20, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Intramuros, Manila

Bids and Awards Committee

1 INVITATION TO BID

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF
BAR CODE SCANNER, BAR CODE PRINTER, THERMAL PAPER, HEDTTON AND HEDTTON READER
FOR THE MAY 13, 2013 NATIONAL, LOCAL and ARMM ELECTIONS
(BAC Reference No. 2012-012BC)

1. The Commission on Elections (COMELEC), through the allocation for Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses of the FY 2013 Preparatory for the National, Local and ARMM Elections Appropriations, intends to apply the sum of **One Million Nine Hundred Thirty Two Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Pesos (Php1,932,330.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to cover the supply and delivery of the following items particularly described as follows:

Quantity	Unit	Item	Unit Cost (Php)	Total Cost (Php)
300	pieces	1-Ribbon	Php300.00/ piece	90,000.00
50	pieces	2-Ribbon wash	700.00/piece	35,000.00
1	set	Barcode Equipment, Accessory and Supply consisting of:		
		1) Barcode Mobile Printer	40,000.00/unit	1,072,000.00
		Quantity: 300 Units Specifications:		
		2) Pocket-size Barcode Scanner	7,000.00/unit	14,000.00
		Quantity: two (2) units Specifications:		
		3) Thermal Paper Rolls for Barcode Mobile Printer	30.00/unit	140,330.00
		Quantity: 4,677 units Specifications:		

Bids received in excess of the ABC per item shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

2. The COMELEC now invites bids for the said project. **The winning bidder shall fully and completely deliver the goods, subject of the contract, not later than three (3) calendar days from the receipt of the Notice to Proceed.** Delivery of the goods shall be made to the Commission on the Elections at the premises and receipt of items, as stated and/or by the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II (Instructions to Bidders).

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the COMELEC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M to 5:00 P.M. Monday to Friday, except holidays.

THE BAC SECRETARIAT
c/o The Administrative Services Department
Commission on Elections
2/F Shipping Center Building
Intramuros, Manila
Contact Numbers: 5210154/5205798

5. Interested Bidders may purchase a complete set of Bidding Documents starting December 05, 2012 from the address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Thousand Pesos. (Php5,000.00).**

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government/Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of COMELEC provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

For inclusion of bidder's name in the Document Request List to send it to declared as the winning bidder, prospective bidders are requested to download the bidding documents from the website and fill out the Document Request List in the "PHILGEPS website, pertaining to this project.

6. The COMELEC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **January 4, 2013, 10 o'clock in the morning,** at the COMELEC Session Hall, 5th Floor, Palacio del Gobernador, Intramuros, Manila, which shall be open only to prospective bidders who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

7. Bids must be delivered to the BAC Secretariat, COMELEC Session Hall, on or before **January 16, 2013 at 10o'clock in the morning.** All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in Clause 15(a) (Instructions to Bidders) (IB).

Bidders are requested to submit a sample of each bar coded label device to be delivered/supplied together with the proposal. For technical evaluation purposes only, after determination of the lowest calculated bid. **Bidders must also bring the latest and original copy of Tax Clearance, PHILGEPS Registration certificate and Two Watch list certification after the date/deadline of the Lowest Calculated Bid.**

Late bids shall not be accepted.

8. Bid opening shall be held on **January 16, 2013 right after the submission of bids,** at the COMELEC Session Hall. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

9. The COMELEC reserves the rights except or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) J. THADDEUS H. HERNAN
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PD-Dec. 30, 2012)

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13 in 2013

We asked Mega Magazine's fashion editor, Patrick Gabing and beauty editor, Kim Reyes-Palanca what's sizzling for 2013 and here are the top picks:

1 DIP DYE

Hair Highlights in shades from light to dark. Yes, it's the Reverse Ombre or Dip Dye, executed by Toni & Guy.

2 GEL NAIL

Low maintenance beauty: nail polish that can last for two weeks to a month. Beauty & Butter has the widest Gel!! a selection for you.

3 GRAPHIC COMBO

Mix it up and layer bold graphics like this pattern on pattern pairing from Forever 21.

4 IRIDESCENCE

Laminated fabrics with a new take on shine is evidently powerful in 2013. The hunt is on at Forever 21.

5 JEWEL TONES

They say Emerald Green is the color of the year. We say radiant hues are big on luxe. High step it with these heels from Charles & Keith.

6 LACE & DRAMA

Lace, Broderie Anglaise and Brocade. Just a few of the High Drama that cuts it this season. Fashion Forum at SM Department Store has the goods.

7 MICRO FINE

Make up formulations that enhance pigment textures on skin will be key in breakthrough cosmetics such as Clinique's Superpowder Double Face Powder. Keep it flawless.

8 NEON HIGHLIGHTS

Move to the beat of your own with acid-hue accents from Forever 21.

9 NEW RESTRAINT

Boxy jackets juxtaposed with softly structured dresses are sartorial staples. Opt for clean lines when creating your own look. Make a stylish stop at Mango and see how you can make the new restraint happen.

10 NIGHT & DAY

Here's to the classic ensemble of Black and White, always in style. But keep it current with surprising twists. Drop by Promod and execute the B&W your way.

11 SPECTRAL SHADOW

Make up calls for bright eyes in vivid colors. Fresh blues, greens, peony and coral. A full palette of shades to welcome the New Year. Colors abound at the Body Shop.

12 STEM CELL

Stem Cell in anti-aging will see its fullest this year. Nature Republic has an advanced cell boosting skin regimen for you.

13 WHITE OUT

The All White look exude austere femininity. On your ante, it is divine. Available at SM Accessories.

1. Toni and Guy, Third Level, Mega Atrium (470-1445)
2. Beauty and Butter, Fifth Level, Mega B (470-4200)
3. Promod, Second Level, Mega B (886-1401)
4. SM Department Store, Mega B (633-6012 to 18)
5. Clinique, Second Level, SM Megamall Bridgeway
6. Nature Republic, Fourth Level, Mega Atrium
7. Forever 21, Second Level, Mega A (477-2733)